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The Guardian

Watchdog warns requirement for Covid passports may be unlawful

Minority-ethnic people
and migrants 'could be
denied services and jobs'

Exclusive
Aubrey Allegretti
Robert Booth

Covid-status certificates being considered by ministers to help open up society could amount to unlawful indirect discrimination, the

government's independent equalities watchdog has advised.

As ministers decide whether the documents should be introduced as passports to certain events later this year, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has told the Cabinet Office they risk creating a "two-tier society".

The watchdog also said employers should not be allowed to hire workers on a "no jab, no job" policy until all young people had been offered a vaccine, and that plans to make them mandatory for care

workers helping older people may not be lawful. According to a submission seen by the Guardian, the EHRC said Covid-status certificates could be a "proportionate" way of easing restrictions, given the toll lockdown had taken on wellbeing and livelihoods.

But it said they risked further excluding groups among whom vaccine take-up was lower - including migrants, those from minority-ethnic backgrounds and poorer socioeconomic groups - from access to essential services and jobs. "There

**'There is a risk to
those who cannot
receive the vaccine'**

EHRC
Human rights watchdog

is a risk of unlawful discrimination if decisions taken in this process disadvantage people with protected characteristics who have not received, or are not able to receive,

the vaccine, unless they can be shown to be justified," it said. "Any mandatory requirement for vaccination or the implementation of Covid-status certification may amount to indirect discrimination, unless the requirement can be objectively justified."

The warnings emerged as the health secretary, Matt Hancock, gave the clearest indication yet that care workers would be required to have a vaccination or be refused deployment in care homes.

Launching a five-week consultation on the



Greensill: MPs reject lobbying inquiry

Peter Walker and Jessica Elgot

Tory MPs voted en masse yesterday to block a broader inquiry into the Greensill scandal as Labour claimed there was now evidence of sleaze at the heart of government.

But in a sign ministers are struggling to contain the most serious crisis over lobbying and political ethics in years, two committees of MPs announced their own inquiries.

The head of the civil service, Simon Case, also conceded that recent revelations relating to Greensill had provoked "acute concern" - and he ordered officials to urgently disclose any roles with private firms or other possible conflicts of interest.

While most of the controversy about the failed lobbying efforts to save Greensill Capital has centred on David Cameron and the ministers he contacted, the focus moved to civil servants after it emerged a senior official worked for the company while in government. Case, the cabinet secretary, met heads of



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Biden ends 'longest war' with troop exit

Dan Sabbagh
Julian Borger *Washington*

The US president, Joe Biden, yesterday declared it was time "to end America's longest war" as he announced that nearly 10,000 US and Nato troops would return home in the run-up to the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Addressing the world from the White House, Biden said 2,500 US troops plus a further 7,000 from "Nato allies", including 750 from the UK, would gradually leave Afghanistan starting on 1 May.

"The plan has long been in together, out together," he added, "We cannot continue the cycle of extending or expanding our military presence in



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we have to make it happen."

— DOLORES HUERTA, ACTIVIST —

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY AARON SORKIN

THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7

TOGETHER WE TRIUMPH



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News

▼ Environmentalists form a message of hope and peace at the 2015 climate change conference in Paris

PHOTOGRAPH: BENOÎT TESSIER/REUTERS



Ministers 'too cosy' with business to act on climate

Fiona Harvey

Environment correspondent

Boris Johnson's government is "too cosy" with vested interests in business to take strong action on the climate crisis, the author of a report on "the polluting elite", has warned.

Peter Newell, a professor of international relations at the University of Sussex, said: "We are never going to have change while these actors are so close to government. The government is not willing to take on these interests as it has close ties to big industries, including fossil fuels. There is a definite reluctance to take them on."

He warned: "The beneficiaries of the status quo are in no rush to change. If we are serious about the Paris agreement, we have to disrupt that cosy relationship between business and government."

Recent scandals such as David Cameron's lobbying on behalf of the finance firm Greensill had shone a light on the government's links to business, he said. "But the problem goes much deeper, such as directorships [of companies, taken by politicians], the revolving doors for

ministers, and the internships by which energy companies send their employees to work inside the civil service on policy," he said.

Newell called for more transparency, from party funding to the machinery of government. "A thorough clean-up is needed," he said. "Transparency is needed on where donations go. There should be limits on directorships [of companies by serving and former politicians]. There needs to be a conscious attempt to say, we can't function like this."

Newell's warning came as Sir David King, a former chief scientific adviser to the government, criticised the "chumocracy" that he said was "privatising the NHS by stealth" and "smells of corruption".

Prominent figures in international climate action have also revealed to the Guardian their concerns that

"The beneficiaries of the status quo are in no rush to change"

Peter Newell

Professor, report author

Call to close loophole on lobbying

Kalyeena Makortoff

A loophole in the ministers' code of conduct has allowed officials to keep the lobbying of firms such as Greensill Capital out of public records, according to an ex-civil servant, who says ministers are not bound to report unofficial calls, texts and emails.

Gaps in the ministerial code are being scrutinised in the wake of the Greensill lobbying scandal, in which the former prime minister David Cameron tried to secure the lender special access to the UK's largest emergency Covid loans scheme by messaging ministers, including the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, and Whitehall officials last year.

Those messages were not reported in transparency filings. An independent government investigation was launched on Monday, partly focusing on Cameron's lobbying efforts on behalf Greensill, which appointed him as an adviser in 2018.

Alex Thomas, a former senior civil servant who spent 17 years working in the Cabinet Office, Department of Health, and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, believes ministers did not breach any rules. However, he says the code itself is at fault.

"The fact that ministers do not declare telephone conversations or private meetings or text messages is, in a sense, a loophole," said Thomas, who is now a director at the Institute for Government thinktank.

"It means that their contacts [with lobbyists] are not publicly available. And I think the threshold at the moment is too high, and a bit arbitrary," he added.

The code, which was formalised in the 1990s, says ministers who meet and discuss official business without another official present, "for example

the government's actions on the climate are "uncoordinated" and giving a poor impression before Cop26, the UN climate talks to be hosted by the UK in Glasgow in November.

"The government is floundering already [on climate action]," Newell said. "Boris Johnson is not fond of upsetting industries that they rely on quite heavily. The industries that are resisting the transition [to net zero carbon emissions] have enormous amounts of power."

Newell pointed to the failure to put in place stringent planning regulations that would force housebuilders to make new homes low carbon. The techniques to do so are available, but add a few thousand pounds to the cost of building a house. Instead, higher costs will have to be borne by the householder when houses built today need to be expensively retrofitted in a few years' time.

Newell also cited SUVs. Carbon emissions from transport have barely changed in a decade, largely because the savings from people switching to electric vehicles have been wiped out by the sales of SUVs. The government could use the tax system to make SUVs less attractive, but instead has frozen fuel duty for more than a decade and is spending £27bn on new roads, the carbon emissions of which have been grossly underestimated, the Guardian has revealed.

Newell was lead author of a report this week from the Cambridge Sustainability Commission on Scaling Behaviour Change that suggested a small number of well-off people - the "polluting elite" - generate far greater emissions than the average UK citizen.

A government spokesperson said: "We all have a part to play in tackling climate change, building on our existing success which has seen us slash emissions over the last three decades faster than any other G7 nation. Through the prime minister's 10-point plan, we have a strategy to eliminate our contribution to climate change by 2050, including ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, and investing in zero-emission public transport."

at a social occasion", should pass any "significant content" back to the department as soon as possible afterward. Those meetings are meant to be published in transparency filings, released four times a year.

Tom Brake, a former Liberal Democrat MP who helped design the lobbying register while he was deputy leader of the House of Commons, has written to the cabinet secretary, Simon Case, asking him to review an apparent "gaping hole" in the rules.

He has also urged Case to clarify whether Sunak and others including Jesse Norman - a junior Treasury minister who Cameron also contacted - should have reported their discussions with the former prime minister in quarterly meeting reports.

"Ministers have either broken ministerial code repeatedly by failing to log these contacts with [Cameron] and potentially any number of other ex-Conservative ministers, or the ministerial code is so weak that it is meaningless," Brake said.

A government spokesperson said: "The chancellor has acted in line with the ministerial code."



► *Bernie Madoff in London in 2003, five years before his arrest*
PHOTOGRAPH: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

◄ *Madoff is surrounded by the media after being placed under house arrest in 2008*

Bernie Madoff, the Wall Street swindler behind \$18bn scam, dies in prison at 82

Dominic Rushe
Edward Helmore *New York*

Bernie Madoff, the Wall Street titan who orchestrated one of the largest frauds in history and epitomised an era of gargantuan financial excess, has died in prison, aged 82.

Madoff, a former chairman of the Nasdaq stock exchange, was regarded for years as an investment sage. But unbeknown to his thousands of victims, he was running a Ponzi scheme that wiped out at least \$17.5bn (£12.7bn) in savings. His crimes were seen as symbol of the “greed is good” philosophy that saw finance and financiers scrutinised and reviled in the wake of the 2008 financial crash.

Imposing a 150-year sentence in 2009, judge Denny Chin called Madoff’s crimes “extraordinarily evil”. His actions devastated the lives of his victims, leading to suicides, bankruptcies and home losses.

Elie Wiesel, the late Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate whose foundation lost \$15.2m, said in the same year: “We thought he was God; we trusted everything in his hands.” Wiesel described him as “one of the greatest scoundrels, thieves, liars, criminals”.

Madoff died at the Federal Medical Center, a prison for inmates with health needs, in Butner, North Carolina, apparently from natural causes. Last year his lawyers filed court papers to try to get him released from prison during the pandemic, saying he had end-stage renal disease and other chronic medical conditions. The request was denied.

In 2008 Madoff pleaded guilty to orchestrating a massive Ponzi

scheme, where instead of investing cash, he paid off older investors with funds from new investors. A court-appointed trustee recovered more than \$13bn of an estimated \$17.5bn that investors had put into Madoff’s business. The recovered sum fell far short of the total Madoff had told duped clients he was managing.

At the time of his arrest, fake account statements were telling clients they had holdings worth \$60bn.

The global financial crisis of 2008 prompted the scheme to unravel, leaving thousands of victims bereft of their savings and Madoff as an avatar for the failure of regulators and financial corruption.

In December 2008, as investors worried about the crisis started asked for their money back, Madoff called a family meeting at his Manhattan apartment, and confessed to his sons that the family business was based on “one big lie”. When FBI agents arrived at his door on a December morning he invited them in and was asked if there was “an innocent explanation”. Madoff responded: “There is no innocent explanation.”

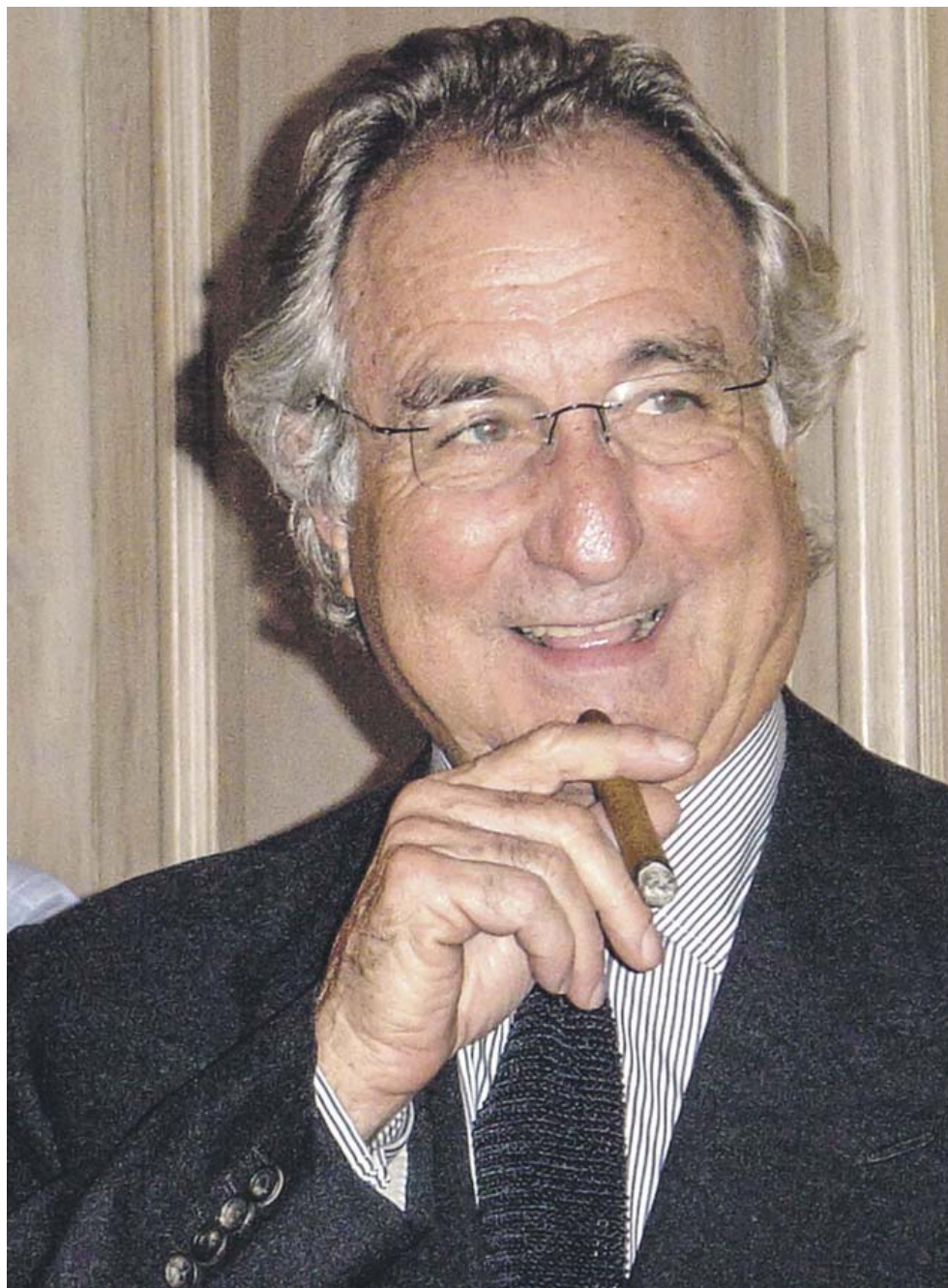
As well as Wiesel, investors included actors Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick and John Malkovich, and Hollywood director Steven Spielberg.

Madoff pleaded guilty in 2009 to securities fraud and other charges, saying he was “deeply sorry and ashamed”.

“He stole from the rich. He stole from the poor. He stole from the in-between. He had no values,” former investor Tom Fitzmaurice told the judge at the sentencing. “He cheated his victims out of their money so he and his wife ... could live a life of luxury beyond belief.”

The family had a \$7m Manhattan apartment, an \$11m estate in Palm Beach, and a \$4m home on Long Island, a home in the south of France, private jets and a yacht. But later, they took a severe financial hit: a judge issued a \$171bn forfeiture order, stripping Madoff of all his personal property and \$80m in assets his wife, Ruth, had claimed were hers. The order left her with \$2.5m.

In 2010, Madoff’s eldest son, Mark, was found hanged in his New York



▲ *How the New York media pilloried Madoff after details of his huge fraud were revealed*

13
Amount, in billions of dollars, of investors’ cash that was recovered



▲ *A college ring, one of 200 items seized from him*

◄ *Bernie and Ruth Madoff at a party in 2008*



▲ *Bernie Madoff in prison uniform in 2017. His death, at a unit for inmates with health needs, in North Carolina, was apparently from natural causes*

apartment on the second anniversary of his father’s arrest for what was then described the biggest swindle in Wall Street history. His brother Peter who helped run the business, was jailed for 10 years in 2012, despite claims he was in the dark about the misdeeds. Another son, Andrew, died from cancer at age 48.

Bernie Madoff was born in 1938 in a lower-middle-class Jewish neighbourhood in the New York borough of Queens. He began his Wall Street career in 1960 alongside his brother Peter with a few thousand dollars saved from working as a lifeguard and installing sprinklers.

In the 1980s Bernard L Madoff Investment Securities occupied three floors of a midtown Manhattan high-rise.

There, with his brother and later two sons, he ran a legitimate business as middlemen between the buyers and sellers of stock.

Madoff raised his profile by using the expertise to help launch Nasdaq, the first electronic stock exchange, and became so respected that he advised the Securities and Exchange Commission on the system. But what the SEC never found out was that in a separate office under lock and key, Madoff was secretly spinning a web of phantom wealth.

Agencies contributed to this report
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▲ *Madoff’s private jet. He also owned several homes and a yacht*

▼ David Cameron and Lex Greensill, founder of Greensill Capital, in Saudi Arabia in 2020, where they met Prince Mohammed bin Salman



Greensill: Tory MPs vote en masse against inquiry into lobbying scandal

Continued from page 1

departments across Whitehall yesterday, where a source said there was widespread anger about the revelation that Bill Crothers worked as an adviser to Greensill in 2015 while still a civil servant.

In a follow-up letter, seen by the Guardian, Case ordered permanent secretaries, the head civil servant in each department, to discover all outside interests from senior officials by Friday and ensure they were declared and examined. “Serious issues have come to light which are of acute concern for us as the senior leadership team of the civil service,” Case wrote, saying many colleagues would “take an equal view”.

Case said that although it was important to bring outside expertise into government “this must only be done in a way which can maintain

the integrity and impartiality of the civil service ... In particular, there needs to be transparency and full and proper management of any outside interests.”

One Whitehall source said the department heads were “very, very unhappy” to hear about Crothers’ double role and there was “strong pushback” about the argument that this was not uncommon. There would be a “proper trawl” to find any other instances, the source added.

But Dave Penman, head of the FDA union, which represents senior civil servants, called the letter a “deflection” to protect ministers: “Will there be similar vigour with ministers in relation to their contacts with lobbyists, which is where this scandal started?”

The government announced on Sunday that it would set up a review into aspects of the controversy, to be

led by the corporate lawyer and government adviser Nigel Boardman.

Labour have condemned the proposed review as too limited, and say Boardman is too close to government and potentially compromised by his role as a non-executive director in the business department. The party used one of its opposition day debates yesterday to push an alternative plan for a special cross-party committee of MPs to be set up to look into not just Greensill but the wider issue of lobbying, with powers including being able to compel witnesses.

Ministers said such a committee would end up crossing over too much with existing structures, and with Conservative MPs voting against the plan it was easily defeated, by 357 votes to 262.

However, any hopes inside Downing Street of keeping the issue under the remit of Boardman were dashed

even before the vote. Speaking in the debate a Tory backbencher, William Wragg, said the Commons public administration and constitutional affairs committee, which he chairs, could also examine the affair.

“Rest assured the committee is and will be giving these matters proper consideration,” Wragg said. Referring to the fictional police anti-corruption unit in the BBC series *Line of Duty*, he said the committee was “the AC-12 of Whitehall”.

And as Johnson ordered MPs to vote down the Labour motion, a powerful committee announced it had reversed its decision not to launch an official inquiry and would now examine the regulatory failures leading up to Greensill’s collapse.

The Treasury select committee’s chair, the Conservative MP Mel Stride, said it would look at what lessons could be learned about the

appropriateness of Rishi Sunak’s response to Cameron’s lobbying efforts, as well as that of Treasury officials. Labour MPs on the committee said their original efforts to begin an inquiry had been blocked by the committee’s Tory majority.

Information released last week after a freedom of information request showed that in response to “multiple” texts to his personal phone from Cameron urging the Treasury to allow Greensill capital full access to a Covid loan scheme, Sunak, the chancellor, replied to say he had “pushed the team” to see if it could happen.

Opening the inquiry debate, Labour’s shadow Cabinet Office minister, Rachel Reeves, said the Boardman inquiry was “wholly inadequate, and deliberately so”. She said: “It’s not independent, it’s barely an inquiry. It’s nothing but an insult.”

The Labour plan would create an independent inquiry “led by a team with the confidence of this house, not someone handpicked from the board of one of the government departments embroiled in this scandal”.

Tory MPs speaking in the debate unanimously rejected the Labour idea. Before the debate, the controversy had dominated prime minister’s questions, with Keir Starmer devoting all his time to what the Labour leader called “the sleaze that’s now at the heart of this Conservative government”.

‘Serious issues have come to light which are of acute concern for us as the senior leadership team of the civil service’

Simon Case
Head of the civil service

Greensill: the scandal so far

What you need to know about the lobbying and cronyism saga

What is Greensill Capital?

Set up by the Australian financier Lex Greensill, it specialises in supply chain finance, which settles business bills immediately for a fee, assisting with late payments. Greensill worked with the NHS with Citibank in 2012 before setting up his own firm, which collapsed in March.

How is David Cameron involved?

Cameron was prime minister when Greensill started to seek government work, although the Australian was reportedly first brought in by Jeremy Heywood, the then cabinet secretary. But in 2016, after leaving office, Cameron became an adviser to Greensill Capital. He was given share options reportedly worth tens of millions of pounds.

What did Cameron do?

Last year he sent “multiple” texts to Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, and “informally” phoned two other Treasury ministers, asking for Greensill Capital to get the largest-possible allocation of government-backed loans under the Covid corporate financing facility (CCFF). He also lobbied a No 10 aide, and in 2019 took Lex Greensill to a “private drink” with Matt Hancock, the health secretary.

And the government response?

Text replies from Sunak show that in April last year the chancellor told Cameron he had “pushed the team” in the Treasury to see



▲ Rishi Sunak's pledge that he had 'pushed the team' raised eyebrows

if he could arrange full access to CCFF loans. Treasury officials had meetings with Greensill Capital but refused it access to the CCFF. It was later accredited to the coronavirus large business interruption loan scheme (CLBILS), able to offer government-backed loans of £50m.

Who else is involved?

On Tuesday it emerged that the government's chief commercial officer, Bill Crothers, began working as an adviser to Greensill Capital in 2015, while still in the civil service. Remarkably, he had official approval. Yesterday, Boris Johnson declined to rule out more officials could be linked to the firm.

What are the main concerns?

There are several. One is how Lex Greensill became so embedded

within Cameron's Downing Street he had a No 10 business card calling him a “senior adviser”, and was nominated by Heywood for a CBE. Why did the government, which does not have cashflow problems, need to use supply chain finance? Cameron's role is under particular scrutiny. He appears to have used personal contacts to seek preferential treatment for a firm in which he had a financial stake. Sunak's pledge he had “pushed the team” to help raised eyebrows, and Crothers' dual role has prompted new worries about a revolving door between Whitehall and companies.

What has Cameron said?

For 30 days, nothing. Then, on Sunday he released a statement insisting he had done nothing wrong, but accepting his communications with ministers should have been “done through only the most formal of channels, so there can be no room for misinterpretation”.

...and Downing Street?

No10 said on Monday it was launching an independent investigation into Cameron's lobbying, led by a corporate lawyer and government adviser, Nigel Boardman. Labour have questioned his independence and called for a wider inquiry, based around a cross-party panel of MPs, and has called a Commons debate to seek this. The government is against this, saying it would cross over too much with existing committees. **Peter Walker**

Maude review Peer defends ties to director at Greensill

Rajeev Syal and Jessica Elgot

The Conservative peer conducting a review in Whitehall for Boris Johnson has defended his relationship with Bill Crothers, the former senior civil servant who has been drawn into the Greensill lobbying row.

Francis Maude is undertaking a review of the Cabinet Office for the prime minister. During David Cameron's first term, he was minister for the same department - and was instrumental in hiring Crothers for a senior role in the civil service to help curb government spending.

Crothers spent three years as chief commercial officer in the Cabinet Office under Maude, overseeing about £40bn of taxpayers' money, for which he was paid £149,000 a year.

He took a part-time board advisory role with Greensill Capital, now at the centre of a lobbying scandal involving Cameron, in September 2015 - while he was still employed as a civil

servant. He later became a director of the company.

Maude disclosed he was responsible for picking Crothers to work in the Cabinet Office in 2011 as ministers sought to implement Cameron's austerity programme.

“I gathered together a collection of the best commercial directors from around Whitehall, and he was one of them. He was one of the capable commercial directors who had a big contribution to make by saving taxpayers' money,” he said.

Asked whether he had spoken to Crothers since launching a review which includes government spending, Maude said: “I might have had a conversation with him ... I can't recall.”

Crothers, a fast-talking, Belfast-born accountant who came in from the management consultancy Accenture, entered the Cabinet Office as the chair of the Crown Commercial Service.



▲ Bill Crothers, above, was hired by Francis Maude to the Cabinet Office

Sources said he was friendly with Maude from the start of his tenure, and the pair were seen as part of a small group of senior civil servants and politicians who were pushing for major changes to the civil service.

In 2012, Crothers was promoted to be the government's chief commercial officer after Maude approved the post. Crothers was known as an abrasive negotiator, unafraid of upsetting major suppliers or fellow civil servants.

Maude left the Cabinet Office in May 2015 to become a trade minister. Two months later, Crothers announced he would resign too and joined Greensill in September 2015 as an adviser before finally leaving his Cabinet Office post in November of that year.

Maude said they had continued to work together. Crothers worked for Francis Maude Associates, a consultancy firm he founded, as recently as three years ago.

“He did some work during 2017 and 2018 as a freelance accountant,” he said.

Asked whether he was surprised that Crothers was allowed to work as a civil servant while taking up a role at Greensill, Maude said: “I do not recall what the rules were at that time and I wasn't party to any of those decisions. I think it is best to leave it to be explored properly.”

Crothers was approached for comment.

Sketch

John Crace



PM struggles to keep his head above water as Starmer the lawyer prosecutes his case

It's a tricky balancing act for Boris Johnson. Because much as he must be loving the mess David Cameron has got himself into with the Greensill lobbying saga - Johnson still hasn't forgiven Dave for doing better than him at school and at Oxford, let alone becoming prime minister before him - he doesn't want too much of it to stick to him or his cabinet colleagues.

And that's increasingly becoming easier said than done, what with Cameron having put in hours of overtime to qualify as the one of Westminster's least effective lobbyists.

“I share his concerns,” said Johnson in answer to Keir Starmer's opening salvo at prime minister's questions on whether the lobbying rules were fit for purpose, But not so much that he was prepared to do very much about it. It was vital that civil servants and ministers should be allowed to canvass as many views as possible - especially those of old muckers - and it was a total coincidence that Nigel Boardman, the lawyer who took quite a generous view of the government's handling of PPE procurement early on in the pandemic, had been chosen to lead the review of the Greensill lobbying scandal.

After that it was all pretty much one-way traffic, with the Labour leader getting all the best lines and Johnson struggling to keep his head above water. After Starmer had comprehensively outlined the process by which Cameron had gone from PM to PR with access all areas to Rishi Sunak and Matt Hancock - not so

much revolving doors as one door left wide open - all that Johnson could manage by way of reply was that Labour had failed to vote for the government's past attempts to clamp down on its own behaviour in 2014. Starmer had to break it to Johnson that it was then because the lobbying rules did not go far enough.

In the past, Starmer's lawyerly approach to PMQs has not always worked to his advantage, making

him sound stilted and awkward. But in what was in effect a legal cross examination, it went down just fine.

The trouble for Johnson is he knows that lobbying is a totally self-inflicted Conservative wound and that any attempts to deflect it on to Labour are just not going to work. To make things worse, there seem to be new sleaze allegations coming out on an almost daily basis and Johnson clearly has no idea where this could end. When Starmer asked if there were any other lobbying revelations to come out, Johnson looked genuinely shaken as he didn't have a clue if he was about to be on the wrong end of another curve ball.

This had been Starmer's strongest showing at PMQs in months, though it would take more to satisfy his harsher critics, and Johnson appeared rattled and relieved when the Labour leader's six questions were up. But even then his discomfort was far from over as Labour's Ruth Cadbury asked when he had last spoken to Cameron.

“I can't remember when I last spoke to Dave,” he said, and he certainly had had no discussions about the Greensill saga. An answer that sounded completely implausible. Because you'd have thought with “Dave” being front page news he'd have gone out of his way to recall their last conversation. And if he really hadn't spoken to him about a lobbying crisis, then why the hell not?

The trouble is, Johnson knows that lobbying is a self-inflicted Tory wound and any attempt to deflect it on to Labour will not work

Just like riding a bike: flight secrets of gangly pterosaur discovered

Rhi Storer

Scientists have discovered the 100m-year-old secret to the success of a prehistoric pterosaur that could fly, even though it had a neck longer than a giraffe.

Palaeontologists from Portsmouth University have been puzzled at how gigantic flying azhdarchid pterosaurs managed to support their thin necks as they took off and flew while carrying heavy prey animals. But thanks to new CT scans of intact remains, discovered in Morocco, the mystery has been solved.

The findings, published in iScience, show a complex image of spoke-like structures, arranged in a helix around a central tube inside the neck vertebra, similar to that of a bicycle wheel.

This intricate design is said to demonstrate how these flying reptiles had evolved to support their massive

heads that often measure longer than 1.5 metres.

Scientists suspect this “light-weight” construction offered strength, without compromising the pterosaurs’ ability to fly.

Dave Martill, a professor of palaeobiology at Portsmouth, said: “It is unlike anything seen previously in a vertebra of any animal. The neural tube is placed centrally within the vertebra, and is connected to the external wall via a number of thin rod-like trabeculae, radially



▲ Model of bicycle wheel-like spoke of a flying pterosaur vertebra



◀ Experts have been baffled by how the reptiles supported their necks

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVIDE BONADONNA/PA

arranged like the spokes of a bicycle wheel. They even cross over like the spokes of a bicycle wheel. Evolution shaped these creatures into awesome, breathtakingly efficient flyers.”

Researchers had originally set out to study the shape and movements of the pterosaur’s neck, but took advantage of the offer of a CT scan to look inside.

Scientists believe the intricate construction could help engineers develop longer, thinner, and stronger lightweight structures.

Cariad Williams, the first author of the report, said: “These animals have ridiculously long necks, and in some species the fifth vertebra from the head is as long as the animal’s body.

“It makes a giraffe look perfectly normal. We wanted to know a bit about how this incredibly long neck functioned, as it seems to have very little mobility between each vertebra.”

Researchers say thanks to these remains, they now want to answer basic questions, such as the flight abilities of pterosaurs, which can have a wing span of up to 12 metres.

“What was utterly remarkable was that the internal structure was perfectly preserved. So too was the bone cell structure,” said Martill:



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'I was sympathised with and one actor was reprimanded, causing me to be targeted further'

Sharon Johal
Neighbours cast member



◀ Sharon Johal in 2019 and the Neighbours set where she started acting in 2017 PHOTOGRAPH: SAM TABONE/GETTY

Good Neighbours? TV soap hit by new claims of on-set racism

Kelly Burke
Sydney

The award-winning, much-loved TV soap opera Neighbours' has been hit by fresh controversy, with a long-standing cast member claiming she endured "direct, indirect and casual racism" on set, including racial slurs and mockery and describing the past four years as "painful and problematic".

In a detailed 1,500 word statement posted on her website, Sharon Johal said she tried to "deny, bury and ultimately survive" racist taunts allegedly from some of her colleagues. She also claimed that the television show's production company, Fremantle Media, failed to take any effective action to rein in the alleged behaviour and left her feeling powerless, isolated and marginalised.

Her accusations follow last week's claims by the indigenous actor Shareena Clanton of racism on the Neighbours set and allegations from the British actor Nicola Charles that two of her cast mates once tried to get her deported back to the UK. She claimed she was targeted for "taking a job from an Australian".

Johal, who left the show last month after portraying the central character of Dipi Rebecchi on the Network 10 show since April 2017, alleged during her four-year tenure on the show she was repeatedly referred to as one of "you people" by another cast member when they referenced people of Indian descent.

Johal said she initially asked her colleague what was meant by "you people" and she was told "you know, Indians".

Johal also alleges a crew member alerted her and her husband to the fact one cast member was repeatedly referring to her on set as "the black one" behind her back. The crew member said "the black one" reference towards Johal was used on multiple occasions to "entertain" the Neighbours set, but never within earshot of Johal herself.

"[We're] the crusty old television crew, and we've seen a bit, but ... we were shocked that [the cast member] was so open and brazen with what they were saying, and we just thought ... they were, like, holding court," the crew member said.

"And [the cast member] called [Johal] the black one, and said 'she had no skill or ability' and 'it only got the job because of ... a token kind of inclusiveness'."

Johal has also alleged a former cast

member compared her to a bobble-head toy, and on other occasions, despite her repeatedly asking them to refrain from doing so, they mimicked in her presence the Indian character Apu from The Simpsons, "with accompanying Indian accent and movement of head".

Johal said: "There are many people at Neighbours who are genuinely working behind the scenes to support minorities [but from some cast members] I was not supported in these distressing moments."

Shareena Clanton, who first raised allegations of racism on the Neighbours set last week, said she witnessed first-hand a crew member and a cast member calling Johal a "cunt" on set on separate occasions, after the actor confronted her coworkers over offensive comments.

Johal said she had decided to speak out because she believed the controversy had become a human rights issue and she wanted to play a role in bringing about transformative

change, not just at Neighbours but "to the screen industry more broadly".

Johal said she complained to Fremantle Media on a number of occasion about racist comments on the Neighbours set.

"I was sympathised with and [one] actor was reprimanded on one occasion, unfortunately causing me to be targeted further, [but] no further action was taken," she said. "The company's position was that I needed to come to them directly at the time each of these incidents occurred."

Johal said she believed the production company failed to take into consideration the reticence of a victim to come forward in a workplace culture in which perpetrators were not seen to be held accountable.

After fellow Indigenous actor Meyne Wyatt responded to Clanton's allegations, posting on Twitter last week that he too had been the victim of racism while working on the Neighbours set between 2014 and 2016, Fremantle issued a statement.

"We do not tolerate behaviour that does not align to our anti-discrimination policy and take all complaints very seriously, investigating all allegations," the statement said. The company said it would conduct an independent review into alleged systemic racism on the Neighbours set.

Network Ten, which screens Neighbours in Australia, said in a statement last week: "Network 10 does not tolerate discriminatory or racist behaviour in any form."

Johal is contracted by Fremantle to make a return guest appearance on Neighbours in coming weeks. She said news of Fremantle's investigation was welcome, but the investigation needed to be widened to include all forms of discrimination.

The former lawyer said she felt "morally compelled" to support the actors who had come forward with their experiences of racism, at a huge cost to themselves.

Irish-born DUP peer declines Home Office test for British citizenship

Lisa O'Carroll
Brexit correspondent

A Democratic Unionist peer has said he has been forced to hold an Irish passport because of discrimination by the Home Office.

Willie Hay, Lord Hay of Ballyore, told MPs he would not submit to a Life in the UK citizenship test and neither should 40,000 other people like him who were born across the border but have lived their entire lives in Northern Ireland.

The 70-year-old said that when he applied for a British passport he was told he had to apply first for citizenship and was invited to attend an interview to prove his nationality, but he refused to do so on the grounds it was unjustified.

"I've been in Northern Ireland all my life. Why should I be interviewed ... [I] just refuse to do that. I mean it's wrong," he told the Northern Ireland affairs committee.

"You're living your life, you're part of the United Kingdom. You pay your taxes. We are also voting, whether in the House of Lords or wherever that might be. I don't believe I should be having to go to Liverpool [for the Life in the UK test] for something [for which] proof is already there."

A prominent member of the DUP, Hay has held several senior positions in public life including speaker of the Northern Ireland assembly and mayor of Derry.

He has been part of the British political machinery and been given "important security" briefings from the police and MI5, and yet he said he was not seen as British simply because he was born 10 miles across the border in Donegal. This rule applies to anyone born after 1949 when the republic of Ireland was formally constituted.

Hay said it was "absolutely crazy" that Irish citizens in Northern Ireland who had never lived in the republic could easily get Irish passports and people like him could not get British passports.

That "goes against the grain" of the Belfast Good Friday agreement, which allows citizens in Northern Ireland to identify as British, Irish or both, he said.

"I see myself as a British citizen living in Northern Ireland all my life. I have a right to British citizenship."



▲ Willie Hay has refused to take the Life in the UK citizenship test



◀ Shareena Clanton, seen at an Indigenous rights protest, also alleges racism on set

PHOTOGRAPH: ASANKA BRENDON RATNAYAKE/GETTY IMAGES

EHRC says use of Covid passports could be unlawful discrimination

Continued from page 1

proposal, the government said the initiative could later be extended to the wider health and social care workforce. “Due to the importance of this issue, we intend to change the law quickly,” it added.

Despite care workers being in the highest priority category for jabs, Hancock said only about half of care homes in England had enough people vaccinated. Government scientific advisers believe 80% of staff and 90% of residents need to be vaccinated to provide a minimum level of protection against outbreaks of the virus.

Senior government figures had for months denied that any form of “vaccine passport” for domestic or international use would be introduced as the rollout of jabs got under way in the winter. But at the end of February, Boris Johnson announced a review would be launched into the idea to explore the complex ethical issues behind it. He touted the documents – which would be used to prove someone’s vaccine, test or antibody status – as a possible requirement to enter a pub or a theatre.

Since then, an interim report from the Cabinet Office review has ruled out the documents ever being necessary on public transport or in essential shops – though the government has declined to provide any definition of these. It has expanded access to testing in England this week, by offering everyone two lateral flow tests a week – a measure it would argue means the certificates would not just be available to those who have been vaccinated.

Johnson faces the prospect of a Tory rebellion if he pushes ahead with introducing the certificates and calls for a vote in parliament, with 41 Conservative backbenchers vowing to oppose them. Labour has previously vowed to vote against “vaccine passports” but has been less clear about its stance on a wider certificate scheme used to show someone’s vaccine, test or antibody status. It says it is still waiting for the government to formally present a firm proposal.

‘It is a professional duty of care home staff to accept the vaccine unless there is a medical reason they should not’

Pete Calveley
Barchester care homes

Marsha de Cordova, the shadow women and equalities secretary, said: “We share the EHRC’s concerns and hope the government will take note.”

Responding to the government’s call for evidence on Covid-status certificates, the EHRC said that if they were introduced, it should only be for a limited time and subject to regular review, along with “strict parliamentary scrutiny”.

Care home operators are divided over mandatory jabs. Barchester, one of the largest private operators, has already said it will make vaccines a condition of work, starting as soon as 23 April. Its chief executive, Pete Calveley, said: “It is a professional duty for care home staff to accept the vaccine unless there is a medical reason they should not.”

Other operators fear it will drive away staff in an already depleted workforce and that it is unreasonable to only make vaccines compulsory for care workers and not NHS staff.

The government has previously acknowledged the legal difficulty of mandatory vaccines. In February, the prime minister’s spokesperson said: “Taking a vaccine is not mandatory and it would be discriminatory to force somebody to take one.” Employment lawyers said on Tuesday that the rule could breach the Human Rights Act and amount to indirect discrimination, if refusal was related to religious belief for example, and it was likely to be tested in the upper courts. “There would have to be a very strong justification that mandating vaccines really does put a dent in the Covid case numbers,” said Ryan Bradshaw, an employment and discrimination lawyer at Leigh Day.

The government wants to make vaccination of carers part of the “fundamental standard” of providing safe care, enshrined in the Social Care Act. Care homes which fail to show their staff are vaccinated could, in the most serious cases, have their registration to operate cancelled.

Unison, a trade union representing health workers, called the plan “the wrong approach” and said persuasion of staff was preferable to coercion.

With the vaccine in England now being offered to those over 44 and the government not promising to offer all those over 18 a jab until the end of July, the EHRC said employers should not be able to discriminate when looking to hire only those who had been vaccinated.

A government spokesperson said: “Covid-status certification could have an important role to play both domestically and internationally, as a temporary measure. We are fully considering equality and ethical concerns as part of our ongoing review.”



Vaccines Study finds UK jabs good for over-80s

Sarah Boseley
Health editor

A single dose of either the Oxford/AstraZeneca or the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine generates a big protective antibody response against the coronavirus in people 80 and over, researchers have found.

The first study to look at the comparative performance of the two vaccines that have been in use in the UK in recent months shows that 93% of people develop antibodies against the coronavirus spike protein by five to six weeks after a single Pfizer jab, and 87% after a single shot of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

But the researchers from the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium, which includes scientists from 20 different centres, found a difference when it came to the cellular response elicited by the vaccines. That is the generation of T-cells that help fight the virus.

The AstraZeneca vaccine had a greater effect – with 31% of people

developing T-cells against the spike protein compared with 12% of those who had the Pfizer jab.

The findings suggest the UK’s policy of a 12-week wait between doses is safe, as the most vulnerable age group develops a strong antibody response to the vaccines well before the second delayed dose. They say more work is needed to find out whether the difference in cellular response is significant.

“It is important to understand how the immune response generated by Covid-19 vaccines varies with age, the delay between doses, and the type of vaccine administered,” said Paul Moss, professor of haematology at the University of Birmingham and the consortium’s principal investigator.

“As far as we know, this study is the first of its kind to compare both antibody and T-cell responses following a single dose of either Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine in any age group.”

The study, published online as a preprint by the Lancet, has not yet been peer-reviewed. The researchers analysed blood samples from 76 people, aged 80 to 99, who had a single dose of the Pfizer jab, and 89 who had the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Dr Helen Parry, academic clinical lecturer at the University of Birmingham and the first author of the paper, said it was important to study what was happening to the immune systems of older people after a jab.

“The Covid vaccine response in older people is of particular interest to

▲ Jacqueline Chaplin is given a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine at home in Chesterfield yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

us because we know that the function of the immune system deteriorates with age. You don’t always respond as effectively to vaccines as the younger population, but also older individuals do have the highest risk for severe Covid,” she said.

“The UK and some other countries have opted to delay the second dose, in order to accelerate population coverage. So in this high-risk group for Covid-19, we think it’s really important that we study immune responses to the different vaccine platforms, but also the different schedules.”

Eight people who had already had Covid-19 had a very strong immune response after a dose of vaccine – a nearly 700-fold increase in antibodies and four-fold in T-cells. “Previous natural infection really enhances the immune responses to the vaccine but all patients should still receive the two vaccines,” said Parry.

The consortium’s findings came as Denmark said it would no longer offer the AZ vaccine as part of its immunisation programme, becoming the first country to drop the vaccine over suspected rare but serious side-effects.

The World Health Organization and European medicines watchdog have strongly recommended continued use of the jab, as the benefits far outweigh any potential risk.



UK mix-and-match vaccine study
Moderna and Novavax jabs added

A major UK study examining whether Covid vaccines can be safely mixed is to be expanded.

The Com-Cov study, launched in February to investigate alternating doses of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines for the first and second jabs, will now include a shot of the Moderna or Novavax vaccines.

The study is examining whether mixing vaccines may give broader, longer-lasting immunity against the virus and new variants, and offer more flexibility in the administration of vaccines.

Led by the University of Oxford, the study will seek to recruit adults aged over 50 who have received their first jab in the past eight to 12 weeks.

Prof Matthew Snape, chief investigator on the trial, said: “If we can show mixed schedules generate an immune response as good as standard schedules, and without a significant increase in vaccine reactions, this could allow more people to complete their immunisation more rapidly. This would also create resilience within the system in the event of a shortfall in the availability of any of the vaccines.”

The volunteers, who will have received either the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine, will be randomly allocated to receive either the same vaccine as a second dose or the vaccine produced by Moderna or Novavax.

The Moderna jab is being rolled out across the UK. The Novavax jab made by GlaxoSmithKline is under review by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

The six new arms of the trial will each recruit 175 candidates, adding 1,050 recruits. If the study shows promising results, the MHRA and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) would formally assess the safety and efficacy of any new regimen before it is rolled out.

Snape hoped the results of the second part of the study would be available in June or July, with the first part expected to report next month, adding: “I’m hoping we won’t rule out any combinations.”

Prof Jeremy Brown of the JCVI said people would eventually have to mix jabs, adding: “Once you’ve completed a course, it’s going to be difficult to guarantee you get the same type of vaccine again.”

Sarah Marsh



Greece Quarantine rules to be eased for vaccinated tourists

Helena Smith
Athens

Greece will take a first step towards reopening its tourism industry by dropping quarantine rules for travellers from more than 30 nations if they’ve been vaccinated or tested negative for Covid-19.

From next week, incoming citizens from across the European Union and five other countries, including the UK, will no longer be required to self-isolate, officials said. The new regime is expected to come into effect on 19 April, in the run-up to the country formally reopening up its tourism sector from mid-May.

“They are baby steps before the country opens as planned for tourists,” a tourism ministry official said.

“Under the plan, airports will reopen in Kos, Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes, Corfu, Athens, Thessaloniki and Chania and Heraklion on Crete,” she said. “We’re not expecting tourists to start arriving en masse, but the system needs to be tested. It can’t be switched on, in one go, overnight.”

Passengers from the 27-member EU, as well as the US, Britain, Serbia, Israel and the United Arab Emirates, will be able to fly into airports in popular destinations without being forced to go into isolation on arrival – provided they meet the conditions.

More than 20% of the country’s GDP is derived from tourism, on which one in five jobs depend. With the Greek economy so reliant on the sector, and only gradually recovering from a near decade-long debt crisis, Athens has aggressively pursued

steps to re-energise the industry, following unprecedented losses because of the pandemic.

The centre-right government has championed the idea of vaccine passports to encourage EU-wide travel and is in bilateral talks with a host of other countries in the hope of striking individual travel arrangements.

After a landmark deal with Israel, it lifted a one-week quarantine rule over Easter for Israeli travellers who had either tested negative or had vaccination certificates.

The tourism ministry official, who was accompanying the Greek tourism minister, Haris Theocharis, on a trip to Moscow, said Athens was also working on agreements with international tour operators. “We’re here to talk to them,” she said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “A similar trip is lined up to America later this month.”

Comparatively, Greece has fared better than the rest of Europe – registering more than 300,000 coronavirus cases and 9,000 Covid-19 deaths – although, in recent weeks, it has struggled to suppress a rise in infections.

This week, in an experiment devised by travel industry experts, 189 Dutch tourists flew into Rhodes, trading lockdown in the Netherlands for eight days of voluntary confinement in a luxury beach resort.

The holidaymakers are barred from leaving their hotel or stepping onto the beach it overlooks. The ‘pilot programme’ is seen as a test run of ‘safe’ holidays in the age of Covid-19.

The Greek prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, yesterday warned that it was still too early to lift curbs on movement. “The goal is to arrive at a safe [Orthodox] Easter and an even freer summer,” he said.

London
Surge testing for Covid to be expanded

Nicola Davis
Science correspondent

Surge testing has been expanded in London to two further postcodes, in a bid to contain the spread of the coronavirus variant first identified in South Africa.

On Tuesday it was announced that surge testing would be carried out in Lambeth and Wandsworth in south London after 44 confirmed cases and 30 further probable cases of Covid involving the “South Africa variant” were found, largely in these areas.

Now surge testing – increased testing, which can include door-to-door tests of people who do not have any symptoms, and enhanced contact tracing – will also be carried out in the boroughs of Southwark and Barnet.

According to the Department of Health and Social Care, a case detected in Southwark is linked to the clusters in nearby Lambeth and Wandsworth.

“The confirmed case is self-isolating and their contacts have been identified,” the DHSC has said, adding that specific households in the SE16 postcode will be given leaflets inviting them to get tested or be asked to complete a home test.

“Everybody aged 11 years and over in this area who is contacted and invited to take part is strongly encouraged to take a Covid-19 PCR test, whether they are showing symptoms or not,” the DHSC said.

While surge testing is already under way in Southwark, it is set to begin today in Barnet, north London, after one confirmed case of the South Africa variant was found in the area. The council told the Guardian this case was unrelated to the south London cluster.

“From 15 April we will start testing people for this variant in specific postcode areas affected in N3 or those who shop on the local high street,” the council has said, adding that only those aged 16 or over need to take the test. Targeted testing is planned to last for up to two weeks,” the council said.

The news follows warnings by scientists on Tuesday that surge testing alone may not be enough to curb the spread of coronavirus variants, with calls for increased restrictions – among other measures – in areas where the South Africa variant has been found. This variant is of concern as it is thought to at least partially evade the body’s immune responses towards coronavirus – including those produced by some Covid vaccines.

Prof Christina Pagel, director of the Clinical Operational Research Unit at University College London and a member of the Independent Sage group of experts, said it is important to contain the cluster, and that surge testing was one approach. She said extra support for isolation if testing positive – as is being offered in Lambeth – is also important.

But, she said, further action may be needed. “The South African variant seems concentrated in London now and, given that, it would make sense to keep restrictions in London going longer,” said Pagel, adding it would not be feasible to introduce restrictions only to certain boroughs.



▲ People take part in surge testing on Clapham Common, south London



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Make it a double: drink sales at pubs up 113% on first day back

Rob Davies

Pubs and restaurants in England that opened on Monday sold twice as many drinks as they did before the coronavirus pandemic struck, according to figures charting Britain's rush for the first socially distanced pints of spring.

While the majority of venues remain closed because of a ban on indoor service, those that did welcome guests appear to have prospered from pent-up thirst.

One pub boss spoke of "Christmas trading" as venues with beer gardens and outdoor terraces enjoyed higher-than-average sales for a Monday in April, despite snowy weather across

parts of the country. Overall sales at 1,687 licensed premises monitored by the CGA Drinks Recovery Tracker were 58.6% higher than they were for the equivalent day in 2019, the last comparable date before the pandemic took hold.

While food sales were down 11.7%, demand for the first meet-ups in pubs and restaurants for more than three months meant that drinks sales more than doubled, rising 113.8%.

While the figures offer encouraging signs for the recovery of the hospitality sector, the data only covers a relatively small portion of the venues

▼ *Customers enjoy drinks in Soho, central London, after coronavirus restrictions eased on Monday*

PHOTOGRAPH: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP/GETTY

that were open. Only 38% of venues monitored by the CGA, about 41,000 premises, have outdoor space. Not all of those were able to open.

The chief executive of the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) also pointed to the fact that most pubs had remain closed, with only 40% - about 15,000 premises - able to open, and at reduced capacity.

"Whilst many have gone back to their local for a pint, it's not all roses in the pub beer garden," said Emma McClarkin.

"Even though they seem full, the reality is pubs are operating with just 20% of the space they'd usually have ... It is for this reason we need pubs to open indoors and out as soon as possible and the restrictions to be removed to allow us a chance at

trading viably and making any kind of profit. With so few tables and spaces available in pubs for outdoors service only, we implore people that if they can no longer make their booking, notify the pub so they don't miss out and someone else can get the table instead."

Pubs, bars and restaurants are due to be allowed to serve customers indoors from 17 May, having suffered more than almost any other industry from coronavirus.

S4Labour, which provides software services to more than 2,000 hospitality businesses, said its customers' combined sales were higher than 2019, even including those that were shut.

Overall sales were up 0.5% compared with 2019, with a 5.4% increase in drink sales making up for a 4.75% decline in food.

The company pointed out that the increase was achieved despite the fact that many venue managers had woken up to find their outdoor spaces covered in snow, whereas the equivalent Monday in April 2019 was sunny and warm.



▲ *Recruiters have turned to online networks according to a new report*

Recruitment Nepotism on the rise during pandemic

Rachel Hall

Companies have been recruiting graduates from a smaller pool of personal connections during the pandemic, shutting out young people from less-privileged backgrounds, a survey shows.

More than half (57%) of recruiters said they had become more reliant on personal networks and word-of-mouth recommendations, while more than a quarter (28%) said they were more likely to hire someone they already knew because they saw them as a safer bet in uncertain times.

During the pandemic, nearly two-thirds (63%) of recruiters have turned to online networks on platforms such as LinkedIn to compensate for the absence of in-person contact, making these a new frontier for nepotism, the study suggests.

"The nepotism which exists in industry ought to be a thing of the past. But at the moment it's not happening. Employers are swapping one closed network with another," wrote Dimitar Stanimiroff, a general manager at networking platform Handshake, which produced the report.

Nearly a third (30%) of the recruiters - who were senior decision-makers at a range of businesses - said they had turned to colleagues for candidate recommendations, while a quarter (24%) had asked friends. The recruiters also said they had become more reliant on job sites during the pandemic. A quarter said they had been proactively targeting students based on their online profiles, while 66% of businesses plan to conduct more of the recruitment process online in future.

As well as surveying more than 500 HR professionals, researchers at Savanta agency, which compiled the data, spoke to 640 students and 334 recent graduates in the UK.

A third (33%) of those looking for jobs thought interviews and applications were biased towards their better-connected peers, and 15% worried that their background would stand in the way of employment.

Retail Bumper business for charity shops on reopening

Sarah Butler

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) and Salvation Army rang up their busiest day of sales ever on Monday as their charity shops opened for the first time in nearly four months after the coronavirus lockdown.

The BHF recorded more than £1m in sales, with furniture proving particularly popular, as customers refreshed their homes in advance of

being able to welcome visitors again later this year. The Salvation Army said its sales had been double that of a usual Monday and donations had also been high.

The Charity Retail Association (CRA), which represents about 400 charities running thousands of shops, said most outlets in England and Wales had been able to reopen despite a slight drop-off in volunteers.

Robin Osterley, the CRA's chief executive, said charity shops had been benefiting from greater interest

in recycling and reusing items, as well as efforts to find bargains while financial times were tough.

"The environment is definitely driving growth, and people want to know that profits from what they buy are going to a good cause rather than a hedge fund," he said.

The strong sales are good news for charities, which have endured from a dive in funding during the high street lockdowns over the past year.

The BHF said its net income had been cut in half over a difficult year in which it had been forced to cancel fundraising events and close shops. The group has had to cut its funding for new research into heart treatments from £100m to £50m in the past year.

Allison Swaine-Hughes, the retail director at the BHF, said the charity had been "absolutely thrilled" at the record day of trading.

"We saw incredibly strong sales of furniture, as customers look to refresh their homes, and with spring on the way, also look to update their wardrobes. Every item sold will help us continue to fund our life saving heart research."

She urged the public to continue donating and shopping, and said stores were particularly keen to receive summer clothing to sell through the coming season. Those unwilling to visit stores can post smaller items, such as jewellery, vinyl records and cameras, via the charity's freepost donation service.



Roman remains found on building site 'first of their kind' in Britain

Alexandra Topping

When developers broke ground on the outskirts of Scarborough, they were hoping to build a housing estate for first-time buyers, families and professionals, with en-suites, off-street parking and integrated kitchens. But before shovels had even hit earth, they found someone else had got there first: the Romans.

The remains of a settlement believed to be the first of its kind discovered in Britain – and possibly the whole Roman empire – has been uncovered near the North Yorkshire seaside town.

The find may have caused a headache for the developer, Keepmoat Homes, but it has sparked excitement among experts, with Historic England describing it as “easily the most important Roman discovery of the last decade”.

The large complex of buildings

– approximately the size of two tennis courts – includes a cylindrical tower structure with a number of rooms leading from it and a bathhouse.

As excavations and analysis continue, historians believe the site may have been the estate of a wealthy landowner, which could have later become a religious sanctuary or even a high-end “stately home-cum-gentlemen’s club”.

Keith Emerick, an inspector of ancient monuments at Historic England, said the site gave a fascinating new perspective on the Roman north.

“It’s not like a jigsaw, where each new discovery adds to the picture, each new discovery actually gives a twist to the kaleidoscope and changes the picture entirely,” he said.

“This is a really exciting discovery and definitely of national importance [...] I would say this is one of the most important Roman discoveries in the past decade, actually. Easily.”

Archaeologists were employed by Keepmoat before building work



▲ The site may have been the estate of a rich landowner

PHOTOGRAPH: MAP ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE

▼ The remains are about the size of two tennis courts and include a tower with rooms leading off it



started, as historians knew the site at Eastfield could contain prehistoric, iron age or Roman remains, but the uncovered site is “far more than we ever dreamed of discovering”, said Emerick.

North Yorkshire archaeologists have established the buildings were “designed by the highest-quality architects in northern Europe in the era and constructed by the finest craftsmen”, said Karl Battersby from North Yorkshire county council.

Further work on the finds and environmental samples would help to establish exactly what function the site had and why it was created so far from other Roman centres, he said,

adding: “This is a remarkable discovery which adds to the story of Roman settlement in North Yorkshire.”

While Keepmoat had to tweak its development plans to conserve the site, Dan Crew, its regional managing director, said a discovery had been factored into planning. Rather prosaically, the site was not uncovered by a labourer, but identified before digging started by a geophysical survey.

He said: “It probably sets this site apart from other new builds in the area. It’s quite a nice feature to know it has that historic element to it as well.”

The remains are to be recovered but a representation of the site will be “expressed at ground level”, for example with planting, an arrangement of stone, or interpretation panels, said Emerick.

“We have huge amounts of digital information that can be made available to the public, so people can get kind of a great deal more out of it, perhaps, than just kind of seeing a pile of stones that get overgrown.”

David Walker, the planning services manager at Scarborough borough council, said the council was happy to grant a change to Keepmoat’s original planning application.

“In creating new homes for future generations, it is only right that we keep alive the fascinating history of those that have gone before us and how they lived,” he said.

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DUP leader tells court of distress at celebrity doctor's false claim of infidelity

Rory Carroll

Arlene Foster, the first minister of Northern Ireland, has told a court in Belfast that she was humiliated by unfounded allegations of an affair with a protection officer.

The Democratic Unionist party leader is suing the TV doctor Christian Jessen for tweeting what was described in court as an unsubstantiated rumour of an extramarital relationship. She told the high court yesterday that it was a personal attack seeking to destabilise her at a politically fraught moment.

Foster said: "It was very humiliating to see that the relationship that's most important to me had been trashed, if you like, and put out there in the public domain in that fashion. One of the things that gives me stability is my home relationship - it was almost as if this cut to the very core."

The court heard that Jessen, a presenter on the Channel 4 show *Embarrassing Bodies*, posted the initial tweet on 23 December 2019. It was retweeted more than 500 times and the court heard that he had followed it up with other "aggravating" tweets. He had more than 300,000 Twitter followers, the court heard.

The DUP leader, who represents Fermanagh and South Tyrone in the Stormont assembly, said it was "very upsetting" to have to explain the unfounded allegation to her husband and that there was little sleep in her home that night.

After complaints from Foster,



'It was very humiliating to see that the relationship that's most important to me had been trashed'

Arlene Foster
First minister

◀ *Arlene Foster, the first minister of Northern Ireland, said the allegations came at a politically sensitive time, with the aim of destabilising her*

PHOTOGRAPH:
NIALL CARSON/PA



▲ *Christian Jessen's remark about Foster was retweeted 500 times*

Jessen deleted the original tweet on 7 January 2020 but did not apologise. The court was told 13 emails and letters to him went unanswered. He was not represented in court.

Foster said the allegation came while she was involved in talks to

revive Northern Ireland's power-sharing government, which had been mothballed for three years. She said the rumour had surfaced online from anonymous accounts before Jessen's tweet. She told the court: "I think the attack on me personally and my marriage was meant to destabilise me at a very critical time."

The court heard that Jessen's tweet had referred to Foster as "the sanctity of marriage preaching woman", a reference to the DUP leader's opposition to same-sex marriage.

"It always comes back to bite them on the arse in the end," it continued.

Foster told the court that she was not homophobic and said: "I do get distressed when people call me a homophobe because that's

something I am not. In politics sometimes, if you take a nuanced position on one issue it becomes a much wider piece - if you cannot explain it in 140 characters in today's society then it must be true - it is simply not true.

"I have many friends who are homosexual, they know my views on same-sex marriage, and in any event, same-sex marriage is now the law here in Northern Ireland and has to be upheld. I have never in my own political utterances said anything in connection with people who are homosexual and that's why I do get quite upset when people call me a homophobe."

Mr Justice McAlinden said he would reserve his decision and make a written judgment.

Pupils warned against further protests at London school

Sally Weale

Education correspondent

The chair of the trust that runs Pimlico Academy, the London secondary school at the centre of pupil protests over allegations of race discrimination, has written to parents warning any future disobedience by pupils will result in disciplinary action.

Hundreds of students took part in a protest outside the school last month over changes to the curriculum, uniform policy and the siting of a union flag, attracting huge media coverage.

In a letter sent before term begins on Monday, John Nash, chair of the Future Academies trust and former schools minister, urged parents to warn their children against more protests. "Any repeat of the actions on the final day of term would jeopardise students' education," he wrote.

"We all need to work together to ensure that this does not happen again and learn the lessons from it. We must particularly ensure that our students, your children, understand the consequences of any future disobedience, which will undoubtedly result in disciplinary action."

Lord Nash continued: "Whilst I appreciate some feelings may still be running high and these conversations may not be easy, I hope I can depend on you to discuss this with your children before the beginning of the next term."

The letter made no mention of the issues that prompted the protests.

One parent of a GCSE student described the letter as "utterly outrageous". "None of the issues raised have been addressed. Parents are aghast. [The letter's] full of threats - 'You either stay on course our way, or you go elsewhere'. That's it."

The letter was very different in tone from one sent by the principal, Daniel Smith, just after the protest, in which he expressed regret but also admiration for students' passion "about the things that matter to them". Future Academies did not respond to requests for comment.

Harrods stops selling handbag after backlash from Hindus

Priya Elan

Deputy fashion editor

Harrods has stopped selling a luxury handbag after the accessory caused offence among the Hindu community.

The bag, from the New York label Judith Leiber favoured by Beyoncé and Jennifer Lopez, sculpts the Hindu god Ganesha into a leather clutch. Many Hindus saw the image of the god on a handbag as demeaning and commodifying their religion.

They believe in non-violence against animals, so the use of leather is considered insensitive.

"Our gods are not accessory fashion items, and it is highly disrespectful for them to be represented as such," said Nandini Singh, the head of social media at Reach (Race, Ethnicity and Culture Heritage). The handbag "was mocking and demeaning our faith", she added.

Harrods removed the item, which retails for £6,340, from sale after a social media outcry, but many asked why it had stocked the item.

Rajnish Kashyap, the director of the Hindu Council UK (HCUK), said: "It raises a serious question, why doesn't a world-renowned brand do proper research on religion and faith to find out what [its products] mean to the people who are following that faith. It's cultural and religious appropriation."

Singh added: "What will be good is if they and other sellers have measures in place to ensure that such blunders do not happen again."

In response to the protests, Harrods tweeted: "Thank you for bringing this to our attention, we have removed this from sale from our site."

Judith Leiber's Instagram page, which featured the bag with the caption "in nature", has been removed

and the company have told The Guardian that they will no longer produce the clutch with the leather lining. "We are deeply sorry to hear that our bag has caused offence to the Hindu community," said company



Harrods removed the £6,340 bag from sale after a social media outcry

president Lela Katsune. "[Our goal] has always been to create unique pieces that respectfully celebrate art, individuals, and cultures.

"However, now that we are aware that the leather lining in the bag contradicts the Hindu belief system, we will be ceasing production on this style with leather lining. Going forward, this style will be produced with a synthetic lining."

Last month, Rihanna angered Hindus by posting an Instagram picture of her wearing a diamond-studded pendant featuring Ganesha. Kashyap believes such incidents keep happening due to a lack of "religious literacy and understanding among management of corporate organisations".

Harrods have been approached for comment.

Financial

Tesco's virus gloom

Supermarket records 20% profits reduction as operating costs rise
Page 33 →



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National Wealth



Scale of Dubai ruler's secretive British property empire revealed

David Conn
Harry Davies
Sam Cutler

The controversial ruler of Dubai has acquired a land and property empire in Britain that appears to exceed 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres), making him one of the country's largest landowners, according to a Guardian analysis.

The huge property portfolio apparently owned by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum and his close family ranges from mansions, stables and training gallops across Newmarket, to white stucco houses in some of London's most exclusive addresses and extensive moorland including the 25,000-hectare Inverinate estate in the Scottish Highlands.

The Guardian has mapped these expansive private holdings linked to Sheikh Mohammed, who is vice-president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, using Land Registry records and company filings.

The exact scale of his British landholding is not known because most of the properties connected to him are owned via offshore companies in the tax havens of Guernsey and Jersey. That raises familiar questions about the secretive nature of large amounts of property ownership in Britain, and whether it is structured in ways to avoid paying UK taxes when the properties are sold.

A lawyer for Sheikh Mohammed declined to confirm any details of the properties or companies that own them, saying his financial affairs were private and confidential. The



lawyer denied, however, that properties owned by Sheikh Mohammed had been bought by offshore companies, or that they were structured to avoid UK taxes.

Details of Sheikh Mohammed's property holdings, which the Guardian compiled with Transparency International, suggest he owns more than 40,000 hectares, forming one source of his power and influence in Britain.

The portfolio ranks him among the country's biggest landowning families, and surpasses the size of the Queen's personal estates, according to Guy Shrubsole, a leading expert in land ownership.

Sheikh Mohammed's £75m

▲ *UK properties linked to Sheikh Mohammed, clockwise from top left: a grand Eton Square house; Dalham Hall and Moulton*

Paddock, early Newmarket acquisitions; Longcross Estate near Ascot

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER LANE; KUMAR SRISKANDAN; DAVID J GREEN/ALAMY; FRANK BARON/THE GUARDIAN

Longcross estate in Surrey, bought in 1976, is now notorious as the residence from which his daughter, Princess Shamsa, tried to escape from his control 21 years ago.

Last year's devastating high court judgment found on the balance of probabilities, the civil standard of proof, that Sheikh Mohammed had

Shamsa abducted in Cambridge, taken to another of his properties, in Newmarket – understood to be Dalham Hall – then flown back to Dubai, where he has since kept her captive.

Throughout that time and since the judgment, which also found that Sheikh Mohammed had Shamsa's younger sister, Princess Latifa, abducted then imprisoned in Dubai in 2002 and 2018, he has constantly enlarged his British property portfolio.

In June, three months after the judgment was published, the same Guernsey-registered company that owns Longcross, Smech Properties, bought Woodhay, another huge mansion in Surrey, for £13m.

A formidable, whitewashed pile with an entrance of neo-classical columns, Woodhay, according to its sales brochure, offers "a palatial" mansion with 10 bedroom suites, several living and entertaining rooms, a cinema and a "swimming pool hall/ballroom".

Set in 10 hectares of parkland, the mansion is four miles from Ascot, where Sheikh Mohammed races thoroughbred horses from the stables of his global Godolphin operation. He has been a guest in the Queen's carriage to Royal Ascot and strengthened their relationship through horseracing.

Sheikh Mohammed's ubiquitous property ownership in Newmarket, headquarters of British horseracing, has long been a feature of the town, and the horses in his blue Godolphin livery are seen being walked from his historic stables to the open spaces of his training paddocks.

Less well known is his ownership of many exclusive properties in some of the most prestigious parts of London: Knightsbridge, Belgravia and Kensington. In 2013, one of his family's companies bought a property in Belgravia's Eaton Square from the estate of the Duke of Westminster, for £17.3m – an illustration of the historic British gentry selling to the dynastic billionaires of the Gulf.

In 2018 the purchase of Rutland House, a six-storey terrace in Knightsbridge, made headlines for its £61.5m mega-price, and the profit that made for the luxury property developer, Christian Candy, who had fitted it out with an underground swimming pool, aquarium and cinema.

The owner's identity was unknown at the time, because the company that bought the house, Lizzium Ltd, is registered in Jersey, an offshore tax haven where the identities of beneficial owners are not disclosed.

The Guardian's investigation has found that Lizzium Ltd also owns Warren Towers, known to be one of Sheikh Mohammed's main properties in Newmarket, overlooking his training gallops.

Sheikh Mohammed's growing prominence in Britain, and the UAE's booming fortunes, have extended his influence into the heart of the British establishment.

In the high court case, his sixth wife, Princess Haya, alleged that a Cambridgeshire police investigation into Shamsa's abduction was halted in 2001 after representations were made on behalf of Sheikh Mohammed to the UK government.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, which denies intervening, refused to disclose relevant information it held, saying

▼ *The scale of Sheikh Mohammed's extensive property interests in Britain remains unclear*

COMPOSITE: ALAMY/BLOOMBERG



'Disclosure would reduce the UK government's ability to protect UK interests through its relations with UAE'

Foreign Office response
On alleged influence

that doing so "would reduce the UK government's ability to protect and promote UK interests through its relations with the UAE."

The judge, Sir Andrew McFarlane, said he could not make a finding on whether representations were made to the government, but the circumstances have led to a perception among the princesses' supporters that Sheikh Mohammed has been allowed to operate with impunity in Britain.

His journey into the rarefied echelons of British society has been smoothed by his unrivalled investment in horseracing, more than £600m from 2011 to 2020 alone according to published figures, which has increasingly made the sport, and Newmarket itself, financially reliant on him.

On a map of Newmarket, the properties Sheikh Mohammed has acquired, principally via Arat Investments Ltd, a Guernsey-registered company, appear to occupy an area equivalent to roughly half the town.

In 1981, Sheikh Mohammed bought the Dalham Hall Stud, 63

hectares sweeping off the Duchess Drive, which serves as Godolphin's international headquarters. He added to his portfolio the historic Moulton Paddocks in 1994, now a base for the trainer Charlie Appleby, incorporating grass and all-weather gallops, a swimming pool and equine spa. The Godolphin Stables, one of racing's most famed venues, is similarly fitted out.

In addition to those and other studs, stables and gallops that dominate Newmarket's horseracing heart, Land Registry filings show that Arat Investments owns more than 100 other properties, including dozens of ordinary houses around the town.

In 2019, the Jockey Club unveiled a portrait of Sheikh Mohammed to honour his contribution to horseracing, the Newmarket economy and various good works including a statue of the Queen, saying it was "our good fortune that he should have based his racing empire here in Newmarket helping to cement our town as the headquarters of world racing".

Since the court judgment, and the February release of a video in which Latifa said she has been kept imprisoned since her 2018 abduction, the Jockey Club has left any comment to the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), which has come under pressure to ban Sheikh Mohammed under its "fit and proper persons test".

Julie Harrington, the BHA's chief executive, last month declined to say if any action is being taken.

"We have been in contact with the British government to explain our responsibilities as regulator," she said, "as well as to highlight a significant investment and contribution to the British racing industry."

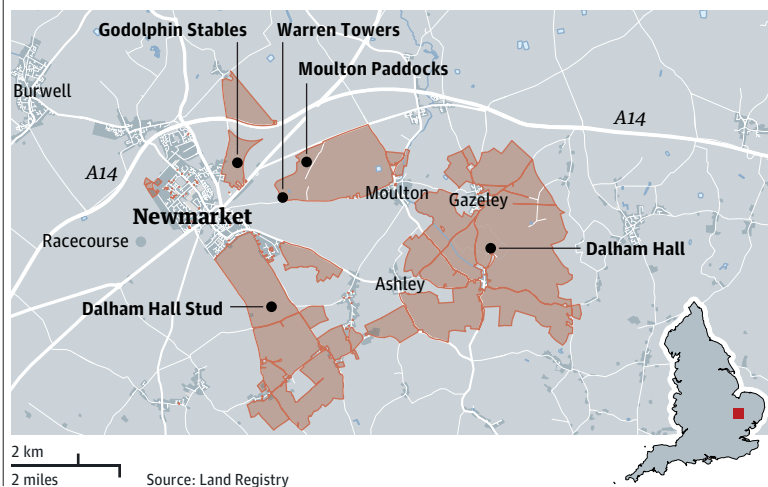
Cambridgeshire police have said they are conducting a review into Shamsa's abduction, including a 2019 letter from Latifa urging them to re-investigate.

Sheikh Mohammed's case to the court was to deny that he had Shamsa and Latifa abducted, or imprisoned in Dubai. After the judgment was published, he said in a statement that it told "only one side of the story" because he had not been able to participate in the court process, although the judge said that he had.

In February, the UAE embassy said Latifa was "being cared for at home, supported by her family and medical professionals", an account the FreeLatifa campaign emphatically rejects.

On Friday the UN said the UAE had failed to provide the compelling proof it has sought that Latifa was alive.

Sheikh Mohammed's Newmarket properties include historic studs, stables and training paddocks



▲ *Sheikh Mohammed and Princess Haya at Ascot. Now estranged, she has challenged her husband in court*

Component of magic mushrooms may help treatment for depression

Nicola Davis

Science correspondent

Scientists say magic mushrooms' psychedelic component could play an important role in treatment for depression, showing promising results in a clinical trial.

Results from the small, phase-two trial have revealed that two doses of psilocybin appear to be as effective as the common antidepressant escitalopram in treating moderate to severe major depressive disorder, at least when combined with psychological therapy.

"I think it is fair to say that the results signal hope that we may be looking at a promising alternative treatment for depression," said Dr Robin Carhart-Harris, head of the centre for psychedelic research at Imperial College London and a co-author of the study.

Carhart-Harris said psilocybin was thought to work in a fundamentally

different way from escitalopram. Both act on the brain's serotonin system, he said, but escitalopram seemed to work by helping people tolerate stress more easily.

"With a psychedelic it is more about a release of thought and feeling that, when guided with psychotherapy, produces positive outcomes," he said, adding participants given psilocybin had often reported feeling they had got more fully to the root of why they were depressed. However, Carhart-Harris cautioned against seeking out magic mushrooms - a class A drug in the UK - for DIY treatment.

"That would be an error of judgment," he said. "We strongly believe that the ... psychotherapy component is as important as the drug action."

The £1m trial builds on previous work by the team exploring how psilocybin affects the brain, and an earlier clinical trial in which the drug helped alleviate treatment-resistant depression in 12 patients.



Over the six-week trial, 30 out of 59 adults with moderate to severe major depressive disorder were randomly allocated to receive two 25mg doses of psilocybin three weeks apart - a dose that Carhart-Harris said was high enough to produce the kind of experiences often described as existential or even "mystical". The day after the first dose of psilocybin, this group began a daily placebo.

The other 29 participants were given two very low, or "inactive", doses of psilocybin three weeks apart. This was to ensure any differences in outcomes between the groups would not simply be down to the expectation of being given psilocybin.

▲ Scientists caution against DIY use of *psilocybe cyanescens* or 'magic mushrooms' - a class A drug

PHOTOGRAPH: IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON/PA

'We may be looking at a promising alternative treatment for depression'

Dr Robin Carhart-Harris
Imperial College London

The day after the first dose of psilocybin, this group began a daily dose of escitalopram, the strength of which increased over time.

Each psilocybin session was supervised by at least two mental health professionals. Participants received psychological therapy the day after a psilocybin session, as well as a phone or video call in the week after the first dose.

The results, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, reveal that after six weeks both groups showed a similar average reduction in the severity of their depressive symptoms, according to scores from a questionnaire completed by the participants. However, there were other differences.

"Psilocybin therapy, as we predicted, works more quickly than escitalopram," said Carhart-Harris.

He added that results from other scales were "tantalisingly suggestive of potential superiority of psilocybin therapy" not only for depression but other aspects of wellbeing.

He warned the findings were not conclusive as the team did not take into account the number of comparisons being made. However, the team noted 57% of patients in the psilocybin group were judged to be in remission for their depression by the end of the six weeks, compared with 28% in the escitalopram group. Neither group had serious side-effects.



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▼ Investors query whether Foxtons should keep the £6.9m it received in state aid during the pandemic

PHOTOGRAPH: ALICIA CANTER/THE GUARDIAN



Foxtons faces shareholder anger over CEO's huge bonus in furlough aid year

Mark Sweeney

The estate agents Foxtons is facing a backlash among its shareholders over a decision to award a near-£1m bonus to its chief executive while refusing to pay back millions of pounds in taxpayer-funded government support to weather the Covid-19 pandemic.

The London estate agent, which has received almost £7m in government furlough money for staff and business rates relief, has also continued to spend freely to build its business.

Yesterday the company revealed that it had made a £3m investment in Boomin, the property site set up by the co-founder of Purplebricks Michael Bruce, just weeks after spending £14m to buy the rival London agency Douglas & Gordon. In November, Foxtons paid £2.2m for Aston Rowe.

Foxtons has now revealed that Nicholas Budden, the chief executive, is to receive an annual bonus payment of £389,300 for 2020 to "reward hard work" in a year the business did "well in very tough circumstances". In addition, Budden has also been handed shares worth £569,000 under a long-term incentive scheme, which will be released in five years' time.

Foxtons took about £4.4m in furlough money and £2.5m in business rates relief.

A spokeswoman for Foxtons said:

"Like many businesses, Foxtons was forced to close for months over the past year. We were very grateful for government support which we used for as short a period as possible but entirely as it was intended - to keep people in jobs during a lengthy closure."

However, two of the world's largest and most influential investor advisory services, Glass Lewis and ISS, criticised Budden's remuneration in a year which also saw Foxtons' share price fall by about a third.

"Some investors may question the appropriateness of awarding bonus payments to the executive directors before paying back the government support received," ISS said in a note to investors. "There is a material disconnect between bonus outcomes and company performance."

Glass Lewis said it was "concerned" about any payouts under annual bonus schemes "given the shareholder and wider workforce experience" last year.

"In our view, there is no reason as to why the company could not reduce the bonus to nil, a common practice amongst the company's FTSE-listed peers," Glass Lewis said.

Rivals including Winkworth repaid their furlough money after seeing a surge in property sales, thanks to the government's stamp duty holiday.

"Although the company has no legal requirement to repay this government money, there are reputation[al] considerations to take into account," ISS said. "Many

UK companies have paid back such support before considering the payment of bonuses to executives."

The two investor advisory firms have recommended that shareholders vote against Foxtons' pay plan at its annual meeting on 22 April. Another advisory firm, Pirc, has said investors should abstain from voting, which is viewed as a form of protest against a meeting resolution. The Investment Association's Ivis service has issued a "red top" warning to its corporate clients on the issue of pay at Foxtons, its highest level.

Foxtons, which tapped its investors for £21m last April to "support the business through our reasonable worst-case scenario", has also experienced a revival in its fortunes.



▲ Foxtons' CEO Nicholas Budden has been awarded a near-£1m bonus

Yesterday the company said that revenues surged 24% year on year to more than £28m in the first three months of 2021. Revenues from lettings was up 6% to nearly £15m.

Budden received £1.6m in total remuneration last year, up significantly on the £1.25m he received in 2019. However, the company said that this was due to the introduction of a new share plan and his comparable year-on-year total remuneration had fallen to £1.03m.

"Our executive directors' bonuses were cut by half compared to their entitlement, and the chief executive's overall cash compensation was down more than a quarter compared to the year before," said the spokeswoman.

"It is right to reward hard work and results in a year when the business did well in very tough circumstances. Our aim has been to strike the right balance in recognising the situation while also acting in the best long-term interests of all our stakeholders."

The High Pay Centre said it was disingenuous to suggest the government's furlough scheme only benefited employees, and that it was "shameless" to pay bonuses to bosses in such circumstances.

"The furlough payments are made to workers but it's an enormous subsidy to businesses too," said Luke Hildyard, executive director at the think tank. "It's pretty shameless for companies effectively pocketing public money to pay-out six figure bonuses to already hugely wealthy executives."

Bonus or payback time? Firms facing investor ire

Cineworld Most of Cineworld's staff may still be on state-funded furlough schemes, but the top executives of Britain's largest cinema chain have a new scheme that could see them allocated up to £208m in share awards in a post-pandemic recovery. Cineworld's 5,500 UK staff have been out of work since October and the chain reported a record \$3bn (£2.1bn) loss for last year. But if its share price can return to pre-pandemic levels, its chief executive, Mooky Greidinger, and his brother and deputy Israel, will receive awards worth £33m each. Only 30% of shareholders voted against it.

JD Sports Earlier this week, the retailer restarted dividend payouts to shareholders after profits bounced back due to a surge in lockdown demand for trainers and hoodies. But it has no plans to return taxpayer cash. Peter Cowgill, JD's executive chairman, said the furlough cash has "done what it was intended to do", saved jobs and "prevented a large taxpayer burden from unemployment".

WH Smith In November, the stationer scrapped a plan it floated with investors that would have seen its chief executive Carl Cowling receive long-term incentive shares worth about £4.5m. The proposal sparked anger among investors. The retailer had furloughed thousands of employees, made 1,500 redundant and raised £165m from shareholders to support it.

Hollywood Bowl The tenpin bowling group angered its own investors after moving the goalposts of a bonus scheme linked to its performance, to ensure that the impact of the pandemic didn't affect a share payout to its executives. The change meant they got 81% of the bonus instead of nothing at all.

Telecom Plus In June last year, the company - which supplies a range of utilities from broadband to gas and electricity - said it would pay a 30p-per-share final dividend and it has since announced a 27p interim dividend: payouts worth approximately £45m to its investors. It has previously said it used the furlough scheme to support a "limited" number of staff. The company has declined to comment whether it has paid any of the money back.

Mark Sweeney and Rob Davies



▲ Few non-chain cinemas, above, will see Cineworld-style bonuses

Woman played dead after London Bridge stabbing, inquest told

Matthew Weaver

A woman injured in the Fishmongers' Hall terrorist attack in London has told an inquest she had played dead after the convicted terrorist Usman Khan stabbed her repeatedly.

Isobel Rowbotham was a part-time officer manager for Learning Together, the group that organised the prisoner rehabilitation conference at the hall where the attack took place on 29 November 2019, the inquest jury was told.

Rowbotham knew Khan before the attack and unsuccessfully pleaded with him to stop, she told the jury. She said Khan left her for dead after repeatedly stabbing her.

She said: "I remember his final stabs were in my neck, and it felt sort of like he thought they were the final stabs, as in they were intended to finish me, I guess."

She added: "I was on the floor and

had closed my eyes. I could still hear. I sort of decided to play dead, just in case he did come back again and realised that I wasn't dead straight away. I tried to slow down my breathing, blood flow as much as possible."

Before she was stabbed, Rowbotham witnessed the aftermath of Khan's knife attack on Jack Merritt, her colleague at Learning Together, who was killed along with volunteer Saskia Jones.

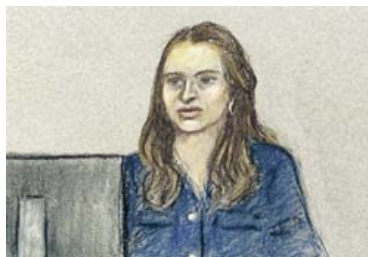
Seconds later Khan began his attack on Rowbotham. She told the inquest: "Then I saw Usman coming towards me with knives in his hands. He seemed quite intent."

Rowbotham described how she pleaded with Khan to stop. She said: "I knew who it was. So I was saying: 'No, please don't.' When it was obvious that he wasn't going to stop I turned to my left, and sort of just tried to hunch to protect myself."

After the attack, Rowbotham attempted to call the emergency services, but couldn't because her phone



▼ Court artist's sketch of Isobel Rowbotham, who pleaded with Usman Khan not to attack her as he approached with two knives



▲ Saskia Jones and Jack Merritt were killed by Khan in the attack on 29 November 2019

PHOTOGRAPHS: METROPOLITAN POLICE/PA



was covered in her blood. She said: "I tried to use the touch ID to open my phone. There was too much blood to press on the screen so I didn't."

The inquest was told that Merritt helped book Khan on to another train to the conference after the train his killer was due to take was cancelled.

Simon Larmour, a research associate for Learning Together, was with Merritt on the morning of the conference when Khan called him to say a 7.39am train from his home town of Stafford had been cancelled.

Larmour told the inquest: "He [Usman] was panicking because his train was cancelled ... While I was on the phone with Usman, Jack was looking at his phone to see if there were any other trains that Usman

could take. We found another train so we went on to that one."

Asked whether he knew that Khan was a convicted terrorist, Larmour said he found this out only after doing a Google search of his name, "because I was curious".

Larmour told the inquest he had led two rehabilitation courses that Khan attended before he was released from Whitemoor prison on licence in December 2018. He added: "We wouldn't necessarily need to have a conversation about what they specifically did, or the criminal behaviour."

In a follow-up interview in March 2019, Larmour said Khan seemed "quite neurotic". He told the inquest: "He was very focused on his time in prison, even though most of the interviews were trying to understand his life post-release."

In phone exchanges between March and November 2019, Khan told Larmour that he wanted to find a job and his own place. "He seemed quite positive," Larmour said. "He would mostly talk about what he was writing. He was writing a play ... or a short story."

But in a call a week before the conference, Larmour said Khan "seemed a bit off". He added: "He was very much just to the point and seemed like he wanted to get off the phone ... it was different."

The inquest hearing, before judge Mark Lucraft, continues.

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◀ Reintroducing species such as wolves to control deer and elk numbers could restore habitats, say scientists

PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIA PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY

Greens in Scotland say they are open to coalition with SNP

Libby Brooks

Scotland correspondent

The Scottish Greens would be “willing to have the conversation” about a formal coalition with the SNP, their co-leader Patrick Harvie has suggested, as the party set out detailed plans for a green economic recovery from the pandemic that it believes would create at least 100,000 jobs and ensure that those who can best afford it contribute most.

With the party predicted by some polls to double its five MSPs in May’s Holyrood elections and describing the manifesto as “a programme for government” for the first time, Harvie downplayed speculation that the Scottish Greens could enter a coalition with the SNP if they fail to win an outright majority, allowing Nicola Sturgeon to still claim a mandate for a second independence referendum.

Launching the manifesto document yesterday in Glasgow, Harvie said: “We do aspire to take a role in government. It’s for the people to decide what the election result is and it will be for the biggest party to decide if they want to talk with others.”

“If we were asked, I suspect lot of people in party would be willing for us to have the conversation but there are really massive issues that I don’t think the SNP are grappling with yet, like the future transition away from fossil fuels, like the land reform agenda that they haven’t taken forward.”

Listing the ways that the Green party had successfully influenced the SNP – such as free school meals for primary children, the eviction ban during the pandemic and public sector pay in the most recent budget – Harvie said: “If you put forward good constructive ideas and make the case for them you can make a difference.”

If a pro-independence majority of MSPs is returned on 6 May, the continued refusal by the UK to discuss a second independence referendum “would be politically untenable”, Harvie added. “It is possible it could be legally challenged, we would be open to exploring that.”

Proposing an infrastructure investment plan, including public transport and renewable energy projects, which could create more than 100,000 new jobs as the country transitions away from oil and gas, co-leader Lorna Slater insisted that these initiatives must include commitments to keep jobs in Scotland.

“We simply can’t hand our renewable resources to multinational corporations and hope they do the right thing,” she said.

The manifesto also proposes a windfall tax for companies that have most profited during the pandemic, such as online retailers.

20

Percentage of land that could be restored by reintroducing some species

50

The number of countries that have pledged to protect a third of the planet

Study says only 3% of land has native animals and habitat intact

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

Just 3% of the world’s land remains ecologically intact, with healthy populations of all its original animals and an undisturbed habitat, a study suggests. The fragments of wilderness undamaged by human activity include tropical forest in the Amazon and Congo, forest and tundra in Siberia and Canada, and the Sahara. The analysis did not include Antarctica. Australia’s habitats have been hit by invasive species such as rabbits.

The researchers propose reintroducing a small number of important species to some damaged areas, such as elephants or wolves – a move that could restore up to 20% of the world’s land to ecological intactness.

Previous analyses have identified wilderness areas based largely on satellite images, estimating that between 20% and 40% of the Earth’s surface is little affected by humans.

The scientists behind the new study argue that forests, savannah and tundra can appear intact from above, while vital species are missing. Elephants, for example, spread seeds and create important clearings; wolves can control deer and elk.

The new assessment combines maps of human damage to habitat with those showing where animals have disappeared from their original ranges or are too few in number to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Some scientists say the study underestimates intact areas as the range of animals centuries ago is

poorly known, adding the new maps do not take account of the climate crisis. It is widely accepted the world is in a biodiversity crisis with many populations falling, mainly owing to farming and building. Some scientists say a sixth extinction has begun.

“Much of what we consider as intact habitat is missing species that have been hunted or lost because of invasive species or disease,” said Dr Andrew Plumptre, the lead author of the study, from the Key Biodiversity Areas Secretariat in Cambridge.

“It’s fairly scary, because it shows how unique places are like the Serengeti, which have functioning and fully intact ecosystems. We’re in the UN decade of ecosystem

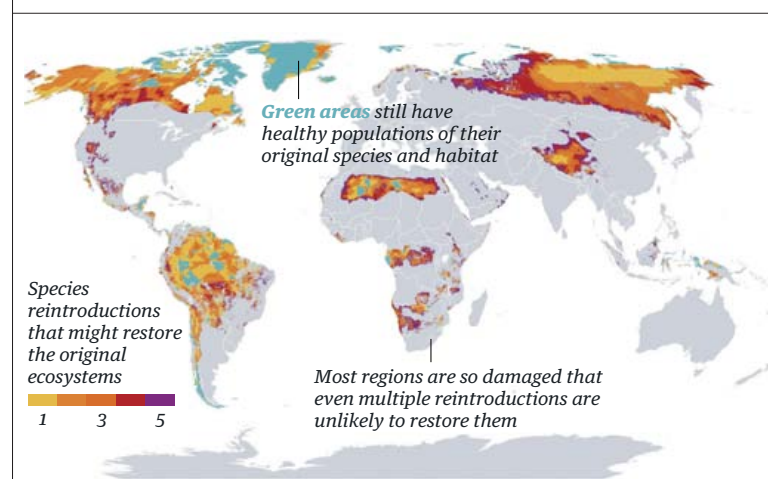
‘It shows how unique places are like the Serengeti, with fully intact ecosystems’

Dr Andrew Plumptre
Key Biodiversity Areas

restoration, but it is focusing on degraded habitat,” he said. “Let’s also think about restoring species to try and build up these areas where we’ve got ecologically intact ecosystems.”

The research, published in the journal *Frontiers in Forests and*

Fragments of wilderness



Source: Plumptre et al, *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* 2021. Note, the study did not include Antarctica

Global Change, used maps of the ranges of 7,000 species in the year 1500 and today from the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List. Most of the data was for mammals, with some other animals and plants. Many of the intact areas were in territories managed by indigenous communities.

“It might be possible to increase the intact area back to 20% through the targeted reintroduction of species lost in areas where human impact is still low, provided the threats to their survival can be addressed,” said Plumptre. He cited the successful reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone national park in the US, which transformed the ecosystem.

Prof Pierre Ibisch, at Eberswalde University in Germany, who was not involved in the study, said finding just 3% of land was intact was “predictably devastating”. “We need to give nature significantly more space to carry us into the future. I fear that the reintroduction of a few species is not a gamechanger.”

He added: “Accelerating climate change is becoming the overarching threat to the functionality of entire ecosystems. Yesterday’s mammal intactness hardly tells us a lot about the functioning ecosystems now.”

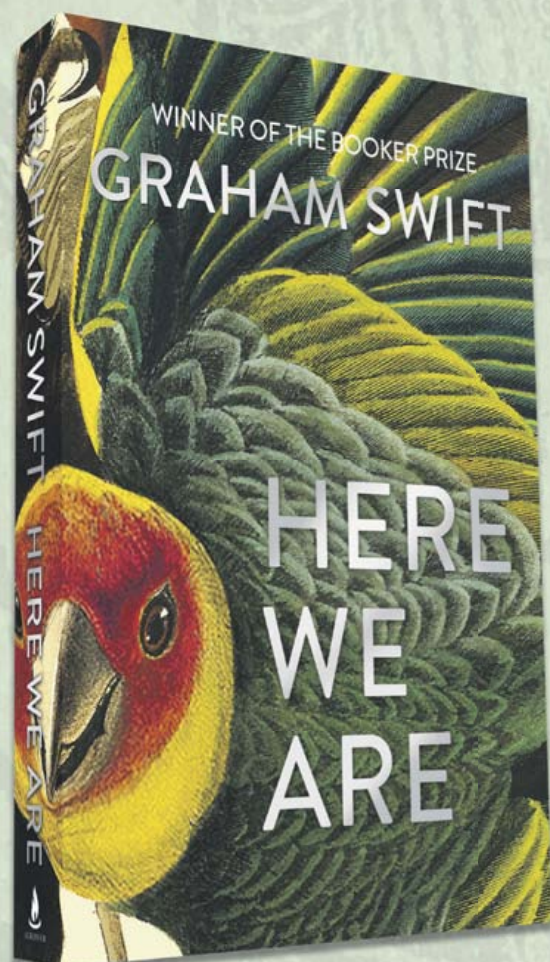
Prof James Watson at the University of Queensland said: “This study undervalues efforts by scientists to map and save intact places. It uses maps for species that are basically best guesses, meaning the message of where ecosystems are still pretty much intact is clearly minimised.”

Plumptre acknowledged the species range maps were fairly crude and said the 3% figure was a “ball-park estimate.” He said scientists should focus on specific regions and use detailed human impact and species data to identify intact sites.

In January, more than 50 countries committed to protect a third of the planet by 2030.

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of post-war love and
magic...a delight.’**

Daily Telegraph



**‘Enthralling...magical...
scintillating’**
Guardian

**‘Performs its magic in front
of your eyes’**
Financial Times

**‘Beautiful, gentle, intricate...
Takes the breath away’**
Observer



SCRIBNER

National



◀ Fru Hazlitt, a former managing editor at ITV, has not had her position on the C4 board renewed
PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER/THE GUARDIAN

Ministers deploy veto to reshape C4's board

**Jane Martinson
Jim Waterson**

The government has vetoed the reappointment of two women to Channel 4's board of directors, including one of only two women of colour, in a sign ministers are continuing to assert their authority over senior media appointments.

The decision not to renew the boardroom positions of Uzma Hasan and Fru Hazlitt at the state-owned but privately-funded broadcaster was made against the advice of the Channel 4 board and the media regulator Ofcom.

Both women were recommended for another three year term on the broadcaster's board, sources told the Guardian, with such reappointments usually waved through by the government. However, ministers have instead decided to seek new candidates, as part of a wider push which has seen leading Conservative allies appointed to leading media roles.

Last year Tory donor Richard Sharp was appointed chairman of the BBC, while Ofcom is now recruiting a new chair, with the former Daily Mail editor Paul Dacre and the former Tory minister Ed Vaizey in the running.

A spokesperson for culture secretary, Oliver Dowden, confirmed the two women would not be

reappointed: "Last year the culture secretary reviewed a number of proposed reappointments to the Channel 4 board and, following the due process, decided the moment was right to bring in new people and expertise. He thanks the outgoing board members for their hard work."

A third Channel 4 board member whose term in office was due to end, the former Paralympic swimmer and Conservative peer Chris Holmes, had his time extended to ensure representation of people with disabilities on the board. Of the eight remaining non-executive board members,



▲ Uzma Hasan is a producer and the co-founder of a production company

seven are white men despite the fact that part of the broadcaster's remit is to improve diversity in the media.

Although Downing Street has no formal role in the appointments process, sources suggested the decision was influenced by officials working in No 10. The government is increasingly blocking reappointments to public sector roles to bring in new individuals to organisations.

The intervention will renew the debate over a possible privatisation of Channel 4, which has been a favoured proposal of the broadcasting minister, John Whittingdale, for many years.

Hasan is a producer and co-founder of Little House Productions, which "focuses on bringing subversive stories to global audiences". At 41, she is also younger than the average board member. Hazlitt runs a social media company and is a former managing director at ITV, Yahoo and GCap Media, the commercial radio group. Neither women were available to comment.

The government has previously intervened in the appointments process at Channel 4. At the end of 2016, the then culture secretary, Karen Bradley, initially blocked Althea Efunshile's appointment to the Channel 4 board and appointed four white men instead. Again, the decision came despite Efunshile being recommended by Ofcom.

After the government was embarrassed by the ensuing furore, Efunshile was appointed the following year. Since then, the Black Lives Matter protest movement has helped highlight the lack of ethnic diversity in the British media and at managerial levels and helped to prompt a controversial government report into racism in the UK. Yet Downing Street has insisted on reviewing all directorships as they come up for renewal.

Non-executives typically serve for two terms unless there has been an upset of some kind, which is why the government's decision to block the reappointment of Hasan and Hazlitt has come as a surprise.

Channel 4 declined to comment. A spokesperson said: "Channel 4 board appointments are a matter for Ofcom."

‘A wizardry of his own’
Sunday Times

**‘Fictional magic...what he can do
with a page is out of the ordinary,
far beyond most mortals’ ken.’**
The Herald

Big investors sell off shares in insulation firm after pressure from Grenfell group

Robert Booth

Social affairs correspondent

Investors have sold shares worth hundreds of millions of pounds in Kingspan, which supplied part of the combustible cladding system on Grenfell Tower, after growing pressure from bereaved families for firms involved in the 2017 disaster to start facing consequences.

Baillie Gifford, until recently one of Kingspan's largest shareholders, has sold an estimated £200m worth of stock in the Irish firm in a series of trades executed in February and March, according to records analysed by the Guardian.

Four other asset managers have also reported selling holdings in recent months and others have placed investments under review. They include specialist ethical funds originally attracted to Kingspan because its insulation products reduce carbon emissions.

All the investors were urged to divest by Grenfell United, which told them it wanted "consequences for the corporate bodies like Kingspan, who played a central role in inflicting the pain and suffering that is felt by the bereaved and survivors to this day".

The public inquiry into the disaster has heard that Kingspan sold its plastic foam insulation without telling customers that it had failed fire tests. The inquiry heard one Kingspan executive responded to a contractor who pointed out the material might fuel fire in some uses by suggesting they "can go f*ck themselves, and if they are not careful we'll sue the a'se of [sic] them".

When another contractor complained to Kingspan it had "not substantiated ... on what basis [its

insulation] is suitable for buildings over 18m" Philip Heath, Kingspan's technical manager remarked to a colleague: "[They] are getting me confused with someone who gives a dam [sic]".

Kingspan has admitted "unacceptable conduct and historical process shortcomings, involving a small number of employees" but said this did "not reflect the high standards of integrity and safety that are core Kingspan values".

With an ongoing police investigation into possible corporate manslaughter and health and safety offences related to the fire unlikely to result in charging decisions until 2022, survivors and families of the 72 people who died have been privately lobbying investors to "immediately disinvest from a company which pushed hazardous products into the marketplace and sought to market them dishonestly, thereby, putting innocent lives at risk".

Kingspan said in response that it "condemns any actions that do not demonstrate a proper commitment to fire safety". It added: "We firmly believe that systems incorporating K15 [the foam used on Grenfell], that have passed a full-scale fire test, are safe where correctly installed in the manner in which they were tested."

Baillie Gifford, before it cut its holdings, told Grenfell United "the allegations of misconduct at Kingspan were deeply concerning". It declined to comment further.

Last week it emerged that WHEB, which runs an ethical fund, had sold its shares citing "an attitude that prioritised commercial advantage over product safety".

Grenfell United welcomed the sell-offs and said it would press for more investors to do the same.



Back in training Young footballers get fit during an English Football League day of action event hosted by Bradford City at a school in Pudsey, Leeds. Other community activities run by clubs around the country yesterday included food bank deliveries and loneliness and mental health support projects.



PHOTOGRAPH: GREIG COWIE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Pavements of Windsor kept seating free for funeral

Caroline Davies

Cafes near Windsor Castle have been banned from putting out pavement tables as authorities seek to deter visitors from the town during Saturday's funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh, who died on Friday at the age of 99.

Tone Mendez, of Clairmont's cafe, said letters from the council stated outside tables were banned from tomorrow night until 6pm on Saturday. "It's a big shame. It [would] be lovely to put all the tables out

and people just sit there on a sunny day. But for safety reasons, we're not allowed," said the 39-year-old.

It came as Buckingham Palace released a previously unseen photo of Prince Philip alongside the Queen with some of their great-grandchildren, Prince George, Princess Charlotte, Prince Louis, Savannah and Isla Phillips, and Lena and Mia Tindall. The photograph was taken at Balmoral Castle in 2018. Among other family photos made public, Prince Charles released one of him and his father playing polo in 1966.

Military rehearsals were under way for the royal funeral, being held behind Windsor Castle's walls away from public view due to the pandemic. Despite a much scaled-back procession lasting just eight minutes, hundreds of military personnel were taking part in rehearsals at the Army Training Centre Pirbright, in Surrey.

Sgt Bugler Jamie Ritche, 31, of the Royal Marines, who is leading the last post in St George's Chapel, said it was an "honour and privilege".

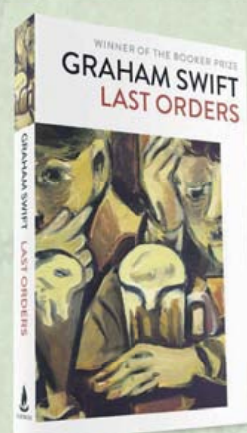
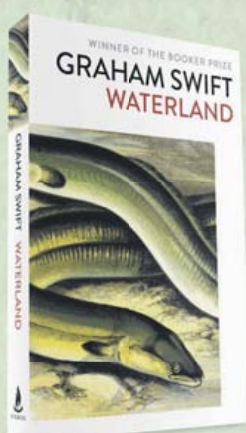
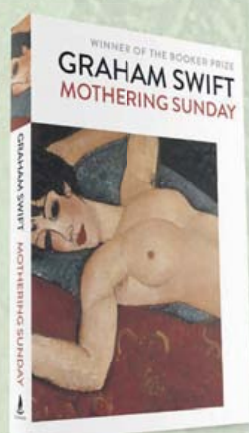
"We've rehearsed, fine-tuned, and made sure the last post will make an incredibly poignant moment in the service," said Ritche, who will wear the medal he received from Prince Philip after serving in Afghanistan.

Philip would have wanted the royal family to "get on with it", his grandsons William and Harry said in separate tributes this week. Princess Anne did just that, honouring a planned engagement at the Royal Yacht Squadron on the Isle of Wight - the club her father was once admiral of - and telling those present her father "enjoyed coming down here".

She consulted the Queen on whether to attend, with both agreeing it was what Philip would have wanted. The Queen, meanwhile, sent a message of support to the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines after a series of eruptions of the Caribbean nation's La Soufrière volcano.

In a tribute posted on social media, Princess Eugenie paid tribute to her "dearest Grandpa", pledging to look after "Granny", the Queen, for him.

Graham Swift classics to fall in love with



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▼ **Student photographer of the year**
Coenraad Heinz Torlage of South Africa has won the student category in the 2021 Sony world photography awards for his series Young Farmers,

capturing their sustainability and ecological challenges. He won €30,000 (£26,000) worth of Sony kit for his school, the Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography



World

'Terrible days ahead': Afghan women fear the Taliban's return

Akhtar Mohammad Makoi
Herat
Michael Safi

Outside a college from which their mothers were banned, the women waited for friends finishing exams they fear will be some of the last they can take.

"The Americans are leaving," said Basireh Heydari, a Herat University student. "We have terrible days ahead with the Taliban. I'm worried they won't let me leave the house, let alone what I'm doing now."

The Biden administration's decision to withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan by 11 September will bring an end to the US's longest war. With Nato allies such as Germany already announcing yesterday that they will follow Washington's lead and exit the country, Afghans fear an intensification of fighting between the national government and the Taliban, who were ousted by the US-led intervention two decades ago.

Violence against civilians, especially women and children, has surged over the past year, according to UN statistics released yesterday, and Taliban control of the country is greater than at any point in the past two decades. The benefits of an ongoing foreign military presence in the country are unclear.

But a return to hardline Islamist rule could mean the rollback of one of the intervention's least-disputed achievements: the lifting of a Taliban prohibition of female education.

Yesterday, Heydari and her friends were trying to absorb the news as they sat in a rickshaw by the university gates.

"I have only one wish, and that's to finish my studies and of course work, but with the Taliban coming, I don't think I'll reach it," she said.

'I have only one wish and that's to finish my studies and work, but with the Taliban coming, I don't think I'll reach it'

Basireh Heydari
University student

There is no guarantee the Islamist group will take power, and they have signalled - perhaps opportunistically - that their future rule would be more flexible on the question of female schooling. If not a total change of heart on the part of the fundamentalists, Heydari hoped at least for a compromise. "If they have problems with co-education, I'm ready to study in girl-only classes," she said.

Beside her, Salma Ehrari, an economics student, was more sceptical.

"I want the world to know that the Taliban are fooling them, they are not changed," she said. "They are using technology and are on Twitter, but they have the same thoughts as they had 20 years ago. I'll lose my education and of course Americans are responsible for that, not the Taliban - this is just the Taliban's nature."

Some in the province, where the Taliban controls some districts, said deteriorating security was already leading to a curtailment of their liberties. "My outlet restricted my colleagues' movements because of security concerns, and my father recently asked me to stop working for a while," said Atifa Alizadeh, a reporter and part of a generation of Afghan women who have gone to school and found work since the downfall of the Taliban in 2001.

At least eight journalists have been killed in the country over the past six months, as part of a wave of attacks against media workers, activists and other civil society figures.

Basireh Safa Theri, a social activist, started a girls' school in the aftermath of the US-led invasion, and said she was monitoring halting negotiations between the national government and the Taliban about what will come after international forces depart.

"They are negotiating each day but unfortunately no word on girls' education, they only talk about power," she said.

In the meantime, the girls at her school have started to study harder. "They feel that they are in the last days of their schooling," she said. "Many students and families are coming and telling me they will only be able to go to school for a few more weeks or months, and want to learn as much as they can."

"Students are coming to my office and asking, 'Are the Taliban coming? Will we be able to keep coming to school or not? We want to use the very last seconds'."



US and Nato to withdraw from Afghanistan - Biden

Continued from page 1

Afghanistan, hoping to create ideal conditions for the withdrawal and expecting a different result."

He added that he was the fourth president to preside over the US-led fight against the Taliban. "I will not pass this responsibility on to a fifth," he said.

The UK, which has been present alongside the US for nearly 20 years, had been preparing to withdraw for several weeks, once the new administration had decided on its plans.

"If they [the Americans] go, we'll all have to go. That's the reality of it," a British defence source said.

The plan was debated at a Nato summit in Brussels earlier yesterday. Member states did not oppose the plans for a full withdrawal once the US had made its intentions clear earlier this week, partly because they cannot guarantee the security of their own forces without a US presence.

Minutes after Biden's confirmation of the withdrawal plan, all Nato

members, including the UK, put out a joint statement, confirming they would join in with an "orderly, coordinated, and deliberate" removal of troops alongside the US.

The alliance said that it had achieved a goal to "prevent terrorists from using Afghanistan as a safe haven to attack us" but acknowledged also there was no good reason to stay on. "There is no military solution to the challenges Afghanistan faces," Nato members said.

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, said the security of those still serving in the country "remains our priority" and said any attacks on allied troops would be "met with a forceful response". He added: "The people of Afghanistan deserve a peaceful and stable future."

However, Tobias Ellwood, the Tory MP who chairs the Commons defence committee, said the withdrawal was "not the right move". He said not enough effort had been put in to "nation building", adding: "I fear that we will see extremism regroup in

Afghanistan." Other officials believe the Taliban could soon be back in control across the country, and that there could be a resurgence of al-Qaida and Isis in Afghanistan.

William Burns, the CIA director, told the US Senate yesterday that there was a "significant risk" that the terrorist groups could re-establish themselves and pose a threat to the US and its allies.

"I think we have to be clear-eyed about the reality, looking at the potential terrorism challenge, that both al-Qaida and Isis in Afghanistan remain intent on recovering the ability to attack US targets, whether it's in the region, in the west or, ultimately, in the homeland," Burns told the Senate intelligence committee.

Nick Reynolds, a research analyst with the Rusi thinktank, said:



▲ Afghan girls attend classes in a primary school in Kabul

Syrian refugees Denmark revoking resident permits

Page 30

'His spirit is here' Islanders mourn 'voyager prince' Philip

Page 32



Analysis Julian Borger



Damned either way, Biden opts out of Afghanistan as US shows weariness of the 'forever wars'

Joe Biden has decided that 20 years is enough for America's longest war, and has ordered the remaining troops out no matter what happens between now and September.

Biden's withdrawal is one area of continuity with his predecessor, although unlike Donald Trump, this administration consulted the Afghans, US allies and its own agencies before announcing the decision. But both presidents were responding to a national weariness of "forever wars".

To the surprise of no one, the Republican party that acquiesced in Trump's order to get the troops out by May, is now launching attacks on Biden's "reckless" decision. The political attacks will mount if, as many expected, the current peace initiative fails and the Taliban steps up its offensive.

In Afghanistan, any US president is damned if you do and damned if you don't. Biden has plainly decided in that case, "don't" is the better option.

In the Obama regime, Biden was a consistent voice of scepticism over the utility of military force in foreign policy, sometimes in opposition to advocates of humanitarian intervention.

He bluntly told a television interviewer on the campaign trail that he would feel "zero responsibility" if the status of Afghan women and other human rights suffered as a consequence of a US withdrawal.

"Are you telling me that we should go into China, go to war with China because what they're doing to the Uyghurs," he asked his CBS interviewer.

In making this decision, Biden has made clear he is setting aside Colin Powell's famous "Pottery Barn rule": if you break it, you own it. The quote comes from 2002

He told an interviewer that he would feel 'zero responsibility' if Afghan women suffered as a consequence of a US withdrawal

when the then secretary of state cited the fictional rule (which is not the policy of that furniture store) to warn George W Bush of the implications of invading Iraq. In Afghanistan, the US has part-owned the store for 20 years and in reality, people and their livelihoods are still getting smashed.

There are gains to be lost however. While the US has been in Afghanistan, the number of children in school has gone from well under a million (almost all boys) to more than 9 million (40% of whom are girls). Life expectancy has risen from 44 to 60.

There is no question such advances are at stake. The US intelligence community's prediction, in its annual Threat Assessment, is that peace talks were unlikely to succeed.

"The Taliban is likely to make gains on the battlefield, and the Afghan government will struggle to hold the Taliban at bay if the coalition withdraws support," the assessment said, adding: "the Taliban is confident it can achieve military victory".

Whether that confidence is borne out depends on some unknowables, such as whether the Afghan security councils will crumble or be galvanised by the departure of their US and Nato backers, and whether the absence of a foreign foe will dampen enthusiasm among would-be Taliban recruits.

Michael Semple, a former EU envoy in Afghanistan and now a professor at Queen's University Belfast, said he believed more progress could have been made to stabilise the country prior to departure. He said "not enough has been done to avoid the risks of Taliban takeover or civil war".

There are questions, too, over whether withdrawal will allow the US military to achieve its more narrowly defined objective in Afghanistan: to prevent the resurgence of al-Qaida or Isis in the country to the extent that they could pose a direct threat to the US, its interests or allies.

US generals have told successive administrations for years that Afghanistan had "turned the corner", but each year there were more corners. Biden has chosen to stop trying to turn them. After 20 years of US presence in Afghanistan, no one knows for sure what happens next.



◀ A Ukrainian tank close to the frontline with Russian-backed separatists near Lysychansk, in the Luhansk region

PHOTOGRAPH: AFP

Russia says it will pull no punches with troop buildup near Ukraine

Andrew Roth
Moscow

Russia's military buildup on Ukraine's border set alarm bells ringing in the west last month as analysts noted unusual flourishes - such as new field hospitals, and long-distance shipments of armour and artillery - that did not feel like a normal exercise.

Whether it is an attention-grabbing feint or a prelude to escalation will depend on the Kremlin's will. But through the buildup, Russia has signalled that if a larger war does take place, it is prepared to deliver a hammer blow to its neighbour.

"My take is that all the signalling from Russia's side is that the next war with Ukraine will be a much larger one," said Michael Kofman, a senior researcher at CNA, referring to the troop buildup and rhetoric from Kremlin officials, "and that it will result in a much larger defeat in terms of Ukrainian force. That's at least what they're posturing".

So far he said Russia was making its buildup "very easy to see and find".

The message has reached US and Nato officials, who have reaffirmed their support for Kyiv and called on Russia to de-escalate tensions. Joe Biden has proposed holding a presidential summit with Vladimir Putin. The foreign ministers of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are expected to visit the conflict zone on Thursday.

Ever since the outbreak of war in 2014, the militaries of Ukraine and Russia have prepared their troops for a larger conflict. Over those years, Russia's ground forces have modernised considerably.

Ukraine, too, has retooled its military, which has fought a grinding war in the country's east for seven years,

boosting defence spending and seeking to recruit international support to ward off an aggressive neighbour with far greater resources.

"I would say we have done the absolute best, or at least very well, based on the funding and constraints we had," said Mykola Bielieskov, a Kyiv-based military analyst, noting significant "quantitative improvements" in building numbers of troops, artillery, air defence systems and operational aircraft. That buildup has had its limits in terms of acquiring unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and secure communications equipment, and modernising tanks, he said, but there had been much better maintenance of existing stock than up to 2014. He said: "What has changed is we now maintain the Soviet heritage much better than we did."

At the outbreak of the 2014 war, Ukraine's military was barely in a position to fight a war. Since then, annual defence spending in Ukraine has increased from £1.4bn to more than £3.4bn, allowing it to build up to 38 line and artillery brigades. Much of the investment has gone toward artillery, he noted, after battles in 2014-15 showed that the Ukrainian military was outgunned by Russia's UAV-guided long-range fire, which caused up to 80% of casualties among Ukrainian fighters. Combat experience and training have also improved across the armed forces and the officer corps. A former diplomat in Kyiv called it a "major overhaul".

Still, Russia maintains a larger and more advanced military force (its military spending is 10 times greater), and in the case of an all-out invasion it would probably use different tactics - using air power, special forces and paratroopers, and electronic warfare, cutting a potential defence down to a period of weeks, Bielieskov estimated. In a worst-case scenario, Ukraine might resort to urban and guerrilla warfare, making invasion far less palatable for Moscow.



▲ A Ukrainian soldier keeps an eye on Russian-backed separatist forces



▲ Girls attend a school in Herat. The US withdrawal has raised concerns among some Afghans

PHOTOGRAPH: JALIL REZAYEE/EPA

"Ultimately, now is not a good time to leave. However, there was never a good time, and Nato was never able to create a window in which good leaving conditions were in prospect."

More than 2,300 US personnel have been killed and 20,000 wounded in the long-running conflict, which has also claimed the lives of an estimated 50,000 Afghan civilians.

Britain played a major role in combat operations in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014, leading the fight against the Taliban in the southern Helmand province. A total of 454 British soldiers and civilians were killed on operations during the period, according to the MoD.

Veterans said they had mixed feelings. Craig Monaghan, 30, a rifleman who was left with a brain injury and became deaf in one ear after being hit by an improvised explosive device in 2009, said he still believed the decision to fight the Taliban was correct.

"I have to believe it was worth it. When we took on the Taliban, we took away the fear many local people had. Leaving completely is a bitter pill to swallow," he said.

Poles plan 'equality jogs' after attack on LGBTQ+ sports club

Weronika Strzyżyńska

Polish activists are set to embrace "equality jogging" at this summer's Pride parades. The plan follows the success of exercise sessions under rainbow flags in public spaces across the country - as a show of defiance following a homophobic attack on members of an LGBTQ+ sports club.

Two people were admitted to hospital last month after members of the Homokomando club were attacked during their exercise session, by a gang of 30 masked men in Gdańsk.

As a sign of solidarity, hundreds of people clad in rainbow flags took to parks and public spaces across Poland to exercise. The sporting events were dubbed "solidarity workouts"

and concluded on 28 March with an "equality jog" in Gdańsk that was attended by 200 people, including the city's vice-president, Monika Chabior.

"We wanted to show that violence is not permitted, that we will not allow ourselves to be intimidated and that we will keep on exercising together under the rainbow flag," said Linus Lewandowski, who co-founded the club in Warsaw a year ago with his friend, Maciej Liskowacki.

Lewandowski and Liskowacki co-ordinated last week's solidarity events with the help of other organisations as well as local city councils.

Lewandowski, a software developer, said he had founded Homokomando to find other people in his area of Warsaw who were interested in obstacle courses. However, the club gained popularity and



▲ Activists take part in a 'solidarity workout' in Gdańsk on 28 March

media attention after its members took part in the August protests against the arrest of Margot Szutowicz, an LGBTQ+ rights activist. Lewandowski made headlines when he attempted to prevent Szutowicz's arrest by climbing on the roof of the police car in which she was being detained. Since then, branches of

Homokomando have been founded in other cities in Poland.

Lewandowski and Liskowacki said solidarity events had taken place last month across Poland, as well as in Brussels and LA. "There are more and more people who support us and who also oppose violence," Lewandowski said, adding that attendance had to be limited because of the pandemic.

However, some of the workouts were accompanied by a heavy police presence, with participants being threatened with arrest and having their names written down due to alleged violation of Covid rules. In Wrocław, the fourth largest city in Poland, the workout had to be ended after participants were attacked by 12 men shouting homophobic insults.

The events were also criticised in state-controlled media, which accused them of increasing the risk of Covid infection, despite the organisers' claims that participants wore masks and were socially distanced.

More "equality jogs" are planned in June in Poland's largest cities as part of the Pride celebrations, even if the pandemic makes more traditional parades impossible.

Warning of increasing risk to journalists in Europe after Greek killing

Jon Henley

Europe correspondent

The murder of a high-profile Greek journalist last week marks the fourth killing of a reporter in Europe in the past five years and has underlined growing concerns about a steady decline of press freedoms in several EU member states.

Giorgos Karaivaz, who covered crime stories for the private Star TV channel, was hit by shots from a 9mm pistol fired by the passenger of a motorbike outside his home in Athens on Friday, in what police called an execution-style killing.

"It is a worrying picture," said Pavol Szalai, head of the EU/Balkans desk at Reporters Without Borders (RSF). "Europe remains the safest place in the world to be a journalist, but the pressures on press freedoms - and the risks - are mounting."

Karaivaz's murder comes five years after the investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb in Malta in 2017, and four years after Ján Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, were discovered shot dead outside their home in Slovakia.

In April 2019, the 29-year-old campaigning journalist and author Lyra McKee was shot dead while covering rioting in Derry, Northern Ireland. Paul McIntyre, 53, has been charged with her murder. He denies the charge.

Seven men have admitted to or been charged with the murder of Caruana Galizia, a columnist and investigator whose blog focused on political corruption, money laundering and organised crime in Malta.

An ex-soldier was convicted of killing Kuciak, who was investigating tax fraud by businessmen linked to top Slovak politicians, and his fiancée, but the alleged mastermind was acquitted. An appeal is taking place against the verdict.

"Murdering a journalist is a despicable, cowardly act," the president of the European commission, Ursula von der Leyen, tweeted last week. "Europe stands for freedom. And freedom of the press may be the most sacred of all. Journalists must be able to work safely."

Greek police have not confirmed that Karaivaz was killed because of his work, but the professional nature of his murder and the fact he was investigating organised crime makes it "very probable", said Szalai.



Fire power

Winegrowers from the Defaix estate near Chablis, in Burgundy, lit anti-frost candles yesterday, as temperatures fell below zero for an eighth day running, threatening the harvest.

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHE PETIT-TESSON/EPA

Fukushima owner's reactors stay offline after refuelling safety ban

Justin McCurry

Tokyo

The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant has been prevented from restarting its only operable atomic facility after a series of safety breaches, dealing a significant blow to Japanese attempts to resume nuclear power generation.

Japan's nuclear regulator issued a

"corrective action order" yesterday that would ban Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) from transporting new uranium fuel to its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant in Niigata prefecture or loading fuel rods into its reactors.

The move, in effect, prevents Tepco from restarting the facility's seven reactors, which it hopes would turn around its finances a decade after one of its two plants in Fukushima suffered a triple meltdown. Tepco had

hoped to bring two of seven reactors at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa - the world's biggest nuclear power plant with a capacity of 8,212 megawatts - back online to cut its operating costs by more than £580m a year.

Last month it was heavily criticised after a series of safety and security breaches came to light, including an unauthorised employee accessing sensitive areas of the facility and a failure to protect nuclear materials.

Media reports said the decision was the first time the nuclear regulation authority - formed after the 2011 disaster - had in effect banned operation of a nuclear power plant.

Tepco has until late September

to submit a report to regulators outlining improvements in the way it handles nuclear materials. The process to remove the order could take at least a year.

Tepco has said it can save £694m in fuel costs annually by restarting Kashiwazaki-Kariwa's No 6 and 7 reactors, offline since at least 2012.

Yesterday South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in, instructed officials to try to have the international tribunal for the law of the sea block Japan's decision to allow more than 1m tonnes of contaminated water from Fukushima Daiichi into the Pacific.

Reuters contributed to this article

'Freedom of the press may be the most sacred of all'

Ursula von der Leyen
European commission

▼ Protesters march near Brooklyn Center police department this week after the killing of Daunte Wright

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS TUIITE/IMAGESPACE/REX



▲ Naisha Wright, Daunte Wright's aunt, grieves during a press conference in Minneapolis this week

PHOTOGRAPH: KEREM YUCELI/AFI

Officer who shot black driver dead 'by mistake' charged with manslaughter

Edward Helmore and agencies

Former police officer Kimberley Potter was charged yesterday with second-degree manslaughter over the fatal shooting of 20-year-old black motorist Daunte Wright during a traffic stop on Sunday in Brooklyn Center, a suburb of Minneapolis.

His death ignited days of clashes between protesters and police.

The charge against Potter, who is white, comes as the nearby murder trial progresses for the ex-officer charged with killing George Floyd last May.

"Certain occupations carry an immense responsibility and none



▲ Kimberley Potter, who could be jailed for 10 years if found guilty

more so than a sworn police officer," said Imran Ali, Washington county assistant criminal division chief, announcing the charge.

"With that responsibility comes a great deal of discretion and accountability. We will vigorously prosecute

this case ... her action caused the unlawful killing of Mr Wright and she must be held accountable," he added. She faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty.

Potter, 48, resigned on Tuesday after 26 years as a police officer. Tim Gannon, the police chief of Brooklyn Center also resigned.

On Monday Gannon announced that Potter accidentally shot Wright dead when she mistakenly drew her gun having intended to reach for her Taser stun gun instead.

Demonstrators had been outraged not only at the death of yet another young black man at the hands of police during heavy-handed arrests for minor alleged offences, but also complained of a history of

racial profiling by the local police department.

Gannon had released Potter's body camera video showing her approaching Wright as he stood outside of his car as another officer was arresting him for an outstanding warrant. Police said he was pulled over for having expired registration plates.

As Wright struggles with police,

'A mistake? That doesn't sound right. I can't accept that'

Aubrey Wright
Father of victim

Potter is heard shouting "I'll Tase you! I'll Tase you! Taser! Taser! Taser!" before firing a single shot - but from her handgun.

Potter could then be heard to say: "Holy shit, I shot him." Wright died of a gunshot wound to the chest, according to the medical examiner.

Protesters and Wright's family say there is no excuse for the shooting and it shows how the justice system is tilted against black people, noting Wright was stopped for an expired car registration and ended up dead.

Wright's father, Aubrey Wright, told ABC's Good Morning America that he rejected the explanation that Potter mistook her gun for her Taser.

"I lost my son. He's never coming back. I can't accept that. A mistake? That doesn't even sound right. This officer has been on the force for 26 years. I can't accept that," he said.

The Wright family's attorney, Ben Crump, compared Wright's death to that of Floyd. Wright, he said, "was not a threat" to the police.

Referring to Wright's apparent action to get back into his car before he was shot by Potter, Crump said: "Was it the best decision? No. But young people don't always make the best decisions. As his mother said, he was scared."

Wright's death is also under review by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Brooklyn Center mayor, Mike Elliott, said the city had been moving towards firing Potter when she resigned. He said he hoped her resignation would "bring some calm to the community", but that he would keep working for "full accountability under the law".

"We have to make sure that justice is served, justice is done. Daunte Wright deserves that. His family deserves that," Elliott added.

Bad heart and drug use killed Floyd, Chauvin's defence claims

Chris McGreal

A leading forensic pathologist has told the Derek Chauvin trial that George Floyd was killed by his heart condition and drug use.

Dr David Fowler, testifying for the defence, also introduced the idea that vehicle exhaust may have played a part in Floyd's death by raising the amount of carbon monoxide in his blood and affecting his heart.

Fowler, Maryland's former chief medical examiner who trained in

South Africa during the apartheid era, said the combination of cardiac disease, methamphetamine use and carbon monoxide killed the 46-year-old black man while Chauvin, who is white, was arresting him last May in Minneapolis. "All of those combined to cause Mr Floyd's death," he said.

Fowler said that the various factors meant the cause of death was medically defined as "undetermined" because it could not be narrowed to one cause alone.

Chauvin's lawyer, Eric Nelson, called Fowler to cast doubt on the testimony of other medical specialists

who told the trial Floyd died because he could not breathe properly as he was pinned to the ground by Chauvin's knee on his neck for over nine minutes, and by two other officers.

Fowler said he specifically eliminated asphyxia as a cause of death. But he acknowledged "restraint" played a part in bringing on the cardiac arrhythmia that killed Floyd.

The prosecution forced a number of important concessions by Fowler including that Chauvin did have his knee on Floyd's neck and that the detained man should have received medical care at the scene when he went into cardiac arrest.

Chauvin, 45, has denied charges of second and third-degree murder and manslaughter over Floyd's death, which prompted global mass protests for racial justice. Fowler is

a controversial witness. He is being sued by the family of a black teenager, Anton Black, killed by the Maryland police in 2018 after being held face down by three police officers. Fowler certified that Black died from natural causes, with his bipolar disorder a contributing factor.

The American Civil Liberties Union



▲ David Fowler said exhaust fumes may have been a factor in the death

has accused Fowler of "creating false narratives about what kills black people in police encounters".

Last week, medical experts testified for the prosecution that Floyd died because of the way Chauvin and the other officers had pinned him to the ground causing brain damage and heart failure.

Nelson has however argued that Chauvin's actions had nothing to do with Floyd's death, which was entirely the result of his medical problems. But Fowler acknowledged that "the more the individual is stressed ... the more the demand on the heart is going to increase".

Nelson needs just one juror to have reasonable doubt for a hung jury. That would not be enough for Chauvin's acquittal but would be likely to force a retrial. The trial continues.



◀ Syrian refugees making their way north on a highway near Rødby in south-west Denmark in 2015

PHOTOGRAPH: JENS NOERGAARD LARSEN/GETTY

Outrage as Denmark strips Syrian refugees of residency permits

Bethan McKernan
Middle East correspondent

Denmark has become the first European nation to revoke the residency permits of Syrian refugees, insisting that some parts of the war-torn country are safe to return to.

At least 189 Syrians have had applications to renew temporary residency status denied since last summer, a move the Danish authorities said was justified because of a report which found the security situation in some parts of Syria had “improved significantly”. About 500 people from Damascus and surrounding areas are being re-evaluated.

The issue has attracted widespread attention since Aya Abu-Daher, a 19-year-old from Nyborg, pleaded her case on television this week, moving viewers as she asked what she had “done wrong”.

Charlotte Slente, secretary general of the Danish Refugee Council, said Denmark’s new rules for Syrians amount to “undignified treatment”: “The Danish Refugee Council disagrees with the decision to deem

the Damascus area or any area in Syria safe for refugees to return to – the absence of fighting in some areas does not mean that people can safely go back. Neither the UN nor other countries deem Damascus as safe.

“It is also pointless to remove people from the life they are trying to build in Denmark and put them in a waiting position without an end date ... It is difficult to understand why decisions are taken that cannot be implemented,” she added.

After 10 years of war Bashar al-Assad is back in control of most of Syria, and frontline fighting is limited to the north of the country. However, one of the main reasons people rose



▲ Hiba al-Khalil, right, with her Danish teacher. She left Syria in 2015

up during the Arab spring remains: his secret police.

Regime intelligence branches have detained, tortured and disappeared more than 100,000 people since the war broke out in 2011. Arbitrary detentions and disappearances are widespread in formerly rebel-held areas which have signed reconciliation agreements with Damascus, according to Human Rights Watch.

Hiba al-Khalil, 28, who left home on the refugee trail through Turkey and Greece, settling in Denmark in 2015, said: “I told the interviewer, just being outside Syria for as long as I have is enough to make you look suspicious to the regime. Just because your city isn’t being bombed with chemicals any more doesn’t make it safe ... Anyone can be arrested.”

The trainee journalist added: “I was so happy to get to Denmark. I came here to work and study and make a new life. I’ve learned the language very well. Now I am confused and shocked it was not enough.”

Khalil had been called back for a second immigration interview this week, and was not sure what would happen next or how she would afford a lawyer to appeal if her application renewal were rejected.

According to Refugees Welcome Denmark, 30 Syrians have already lost their appeals. But since Copenhagen does not have diplomatic relations with Damascus it cannot directly deport people to Syria.

At least some of the rejected applicants have been placed in a detention centre, which campaigners said amounted to a prison where residents could not work, study or get proper healthcare.

Denmark’s reputation for tolerance and openness has suffered in recent years with the rise of the far-right Danish People’s party. The ruling centre-left coalition, led by the Social Democrats, is competing with the right for working-class votes.

Danish authorities have so far dismissed international criticism from the UN and rights groups. The immigration minister, Mattias Tesfaye, told Agence France-Presse: “The government’s policy is working and I won’t back down, it won’t happen.”

In brief

Egypt

Ever Given impounded over costs of accident

Two weeks after it was freed from the Suez Canal, the giant container ship Ever Given, pictured, is once again stuck.

This time the 220,000-ton megaship is not caught in the sand, but snared in a legal row between Egyptian authorities and the ship’s owners over the financial impact of the accident.

The ship has been impounded while the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) pursues its Japanese owners for the cost of the salvage operation and lost transit fees for the week that the canal was blocked.

About 50 ships a day pass through the canal, and more than 442 vessels were held up by the blockage.

“The vessel is now officially impounded,” Osama Rabie, the head of the SCA, told Egypt’s state-run television. “They do not want to pay anything.”

There was no immediate comment from the vessel’s owner, Shoen Kisen Kaisha Ltd. Rabie did not say how much money the canal authority was seeking, but the figure was reportedly \$900m (£650m). **Staff and agencies Cairo**



New Zealand

Mosque attacker starts appeal over conditions

The Australian man who carried out the Christchurch mosque massacres is launching a legal challenge against his jail conditions in the New Zealand high court.

Brenton Tarrant, who was sentenced to life last year for 51 murders and one charge of terrorism, will represent himself in a hearing in Auckland today. He has requested a judicial review, which

looks at whether decisions have been made appropriately within the law. He is not appealing against his sentence and the hearing has no bearing on the outcome of the criminal case.

Information provided by the court appeared to indicate the killer wanted the court to review decisions about his prison conditions. He is being held at an Auckland jail, under strict conditions. The 30-year-old was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Guardian staff and agencies

United Nations

20 countries still allow rapists to marry victims

Twenty countries still allow rapists to marry victims to escape prosecution, according to the UN’s annual state of world population report. Russia, Thailand and Venezuela are among nations that allow rape convictions to be overturned if the rapists marry those they have attacked.

Dr Natalia Kanem, head of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), which published the report

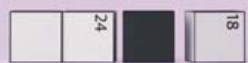
yesterday, said such laws were “a way of subjugating women”.

“The denial of rights cannot be shielded in law. ‘Marry your rapist’ laws shift the burden of guilt on to the victim and try to sanitise a situation that is criminal,” she said.

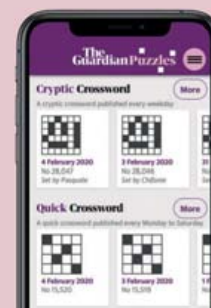
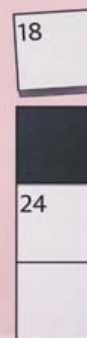
Dima Dabbous, director of Equality Now’s Middle East and Africa region, whose research is cited in the report, said the laws reflected a culture “that does not think women should have bodily autonomy ... It’s a tribal and antiquated approach to sexuality and honour mixed together”.

Sarah Johnson

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The Guardian Puzzles

▼ Doctors on their rounds at a Covid care centre and isolation ward near a hospital in Delhi this week

PHOTOGRAPH: RAJAT GUPTA/EPA



▲ A millworker has her temperature taken before getting a job in Gujarat

'This time we are seeing people aged 20 to 40 getting seriously ill'

Dr Shashank Joshi
Maharashtra taskforce

through a combination of herd immunity from the first wave, which eased off around November, and a speculated natural immune resistance among Indians.

In January, the health minister, Harsh Vardhan, proclaimed India had "successfully contained the pandemic". Caps were lifted on social and religious gatherings, including the Kumbh Mela, a Hindu festival which on Monday drew crowds of more than a million. Several states have held elections over the past month, with Modi and the home minister, Amit Shah, among those holding rallies where thousands gathered without social distancing or masks enforced.

Much of the blame for the second wave has been attributed to complacency, but an increasing body of evidence, backed up by first-hand accounts from frontline doctors, also points to possible new variants in India which are proving to be dramatically more infectious.

"The rate at which cases have increased in this wave far exceeds the rate at which cases grew the first time," said Gautam Menon, professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University. "There is certainly evidence that it is spreading faster, suggesting that it is likely more infectious."

Menon believes "new variants [are] driving this rapid increase", in particular an Indian variant known as B1617, which contains two mutations associated with increased infectivity and "immune escape". Menon pointed to data from Maharashtra, the state worst affected by Covid-19, where this variant has been found to be responsible for 20% of the cases.

The government has been accused of being slow in genome sequencing of Covid cases over the past few months and therefore failing to detect new and possibly more virulent domestic variants, as well as the Brazil and UK variants. In Punjab, which is experiencing a severe rise in cases, 80% have been found to be the UK variant.

Menon said it was unlikely a second wave in India could have been avoided altogether. "However, a more robust sequencing programme should have acted as an early warning system."

Second wave Complacency and new variant plunge India into Covid chaos

Hannah Ellis-Petersen
Delhi

Dr K Senthil had feared it was coming. He had feared it as he saw the reckless crush of hundreds of people at large wedding parties over the past months, the maskless faces of shoppers at the market, the thousands coming together for political rallies in the ongoing elections in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where he is president of the state medical council.

But despite his growing sense of foreboding, the second wave of coronavirus that began to engulf India last month has confounded even Senthil's worst expectations. "People became so complacent, acting as if the virus had vanished," said the urologist in Coimbatore.

"Now we are experiencing a wave of infections that is far worse than the first and the magnitude of the spread is getting worse and worse. In Tamil Nadu it has taken just 15 days to reach the same level of cases in hospitals which was the peak last time. In the big cities, the hospitals are already almost full."

This week has marked a series of grim Covid milestones for

India. The country has once again outstripped Brazil to become the second-worst affected globally, with more than 13.68 million cases. Each day has brought a new record for infections; on Tuesday, the figure was 161,736. Active cases also hit a new high, while deaths continued to rise to over 171,000.

Nightmare scenes of a country struggling to cope have begun to emerge as doctors speak of a new variant that appears to be spreading faster than before, affecting young people and even children this time and pushing India's healthcare system to the brink of collapse. States such as Maharashtra have imposed a weekend lockdown to curb infections, while Delhi has

introduced a night curfew, with a total lockdown still not ruled out.

Over the weekend bodies piled up outside the government hospital in Raipur, in the state of Chhattisgarh, because the hospital had "not expected so many people to die at once" from Covid and could not cremate them fast enough. In Surat, in the state of Gujarat, crematoriums became so overwhelmed that families began burning their dead on open ground.

"This sheer tsunami of cases has already overwhelmed the healthcare infrastructure in the state," said Dr Shashank Joshi, a member of the Maharashtra Covid taskforce. "This time we are seeing younger people between 20 and 40

getting seriously affected and even children are now being hospitalised with severe symptoms. The capacity for the healthcare system to hold on is fast dwindling."

Kshitij Thakur, a local politician in Maharashtra, made a desperate plea for help with an "acute" shortage of oxygen in a government hospital, which had already led to the loss of three lives. "The supply can run for only three hours," said Thakur in a tweet directed at the central government and the prime minister, Narendra Modi. "There are more than 7,000 active cases in the area and more than 3,000 people need oxygen supply daily."

Though over 108 million people have been vaccinated so far, in a country of 1.3 billion it has not been enough to curb the second wave. On Tuesday, the drugs controller general of India, Dr VG Somani, approved the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, for emergency use, with distribution likely to begin next month, and also cleared the way for the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson jabs to be approved.

Just a month ago, while Europe grappled with soaring cases and stringent lockdowns, there was a widespread belief across India that the country had avoided the spectre of a second wave



◀ Devotees mark the Vishu festival in Chennai yesterday. Curbs have been lifted on religious gatherings

'His spirit is here'

Islanders mourn Philip as voyager prince of Vanuatu

▼ The Queen and Prince Philip in Vanuatu in 1974, the start of a spiritual kinship for Tanna islanders
PHOTOGRAPH: MCCABE/GETTY IMAGES



Dan McGarry
Tanna

Days after the news of Prince Philip's death reverberated around the world, a young woman and her mother selling snacks in a marketplace on the Vanuatu island of Tanna heard it for the first time.

Sophie, who declined to provide a family name, visibly flinched as the information registered. She quickly recovered the reserved demeanour so common on the island but the news clearly touched her deeply.

"Sorry," was all she said.

This simple pronouncement was repeated again and again at the weekend across the island. But it was spoken most eloquently by Albi, paramount chief of Yakel village. "Lamopo, lamopo," he said. I am so, so sorry.

Albi received a framed copy of the portrait of the Duke of Edinburgh released by Buckingham Palace. He held it in his hands for several minutes, motionless. No one spoke.

But his message to the Queen is that she should not despair. Her husband's spirit will live on.

The death of Prince Philip has had a profound effect on the island of Tanna, in the tiny south Pacific nation of Vanuatu.

It's a popular misconception that the tribes of Tanna worship Prince



Philip as a deity. They don't. They revere him as one of their own. According to local belief or *kastom*, he was a man who was born on Tanna, and a great spirit inhabited his body.

According to lore, Philip left Tanna before the second world war to seek his fortune. He travelled to the UK where he met, wooed and wed the most powerful woman in the world.

Tanna *kastom*, they contend, came to reside at the very heart

of the British empire. A quest by this tribe to reconnect with Philip was documented on Channel 4's *Meet the Natives*, which saw a delegation of Tannese men travel to the UK to conduct what the programme's creator called reverse anthropology.

In the final episode, members of the group had a private meeting with Prince Philip.

Chief Lalu, from west Tanna, said: "Prince Philip was a man who connected Tanna to London."

▲ Villagers in Yaohnanen, Tanna, where many local people believe the Duke of Edinburgh was born
PHOTOGRAPH: DAN MCGARRY/GETTY IMAGES

'Prince Philip was a man who connected Tanna to London'

Chief Lalu
Tanna island

"Our fathers and our grandfathers told us this."

Prince Charles is considered Man Tanna, as they say. "Prince Philip's family is Tanna's family," he said.

Willie Lop is the highest-ranking chief on the island. He is equally unequivocal: "I want to tell the world that Prince Philip came from Tanna."

"I want to send the English nation a sympathy message from the island of Tanna. We send this message to the government and the people of England. We send our sympathy for the loss of Prince Philip."

Only a few miles from a newly constructed highway, the people of Yakel village eschew all modernity, living as they have for thousands of years.

A short walk down the rutted, dusty roads lies Yaohnanen, considered the birthplace of the Prince Philip movement. There, paramount chief Jack Malia was more pragmatic about the loss of their spiritual leader.

"When the prince died," he said, "it didn't weigh heavily on us, because the spirit that lived in him was with us here in the *nakamal*." He was referring to the village meeting place, a broad sandy expanse sheltered under the boughs of an ancient banyan tree.

Mourning in Vanuatu lasts 100 days. The entire island will observe the rite, but Yaohnanen, the duke's birthplace according to its inhabitants, remains the focus. Already, chiefs from the surrounding villages are meeting, conducting delicate negotiations to answer a question that lies at the core of their living, still-mutable religion: Who will succeed Philip?

Malia says Prince Charles was anointed to the role during his 2018 visit to Vanuatu. Most people agree with him. But in Yakel, Albi is less sure. Prince Philip's spirit lives on, he says, but it would take time before we knew in whom it would choose to reside.

Every evening the men of the Prince Philip tribes will gather to drink kava, a ceremonial drink with a mildly intoxicating effect, to listen to the wisdom it brings, and to remember the man they claim left their island to stand at the right hand of the Queen.



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Financial

Tesco profits fall as Covid-19 expenses offset sales boom

Joanna Partridge
Sarah Butler

Tesco's profits tumbled by almost a fifth to £825m last year, after racking up almost £900m in extra costs caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The UK's biggest retailer won customers from rivals and its total sales rose by just over 7% to more than £53bn in the year to the end of February, beating City analysts' expectations. In the UK and Ireland sales climbed 8.8%.

However, profits took a hit after Tesco incurred £892m of extra costs, including hiring more staff to provide online deliveries and to cover employees who were off work as a result of Covid-19 or while they were self-isolating.

Altogether almost 50,000 temporary workers joined the grocer during the pandemic, about 20,000 of whom are permanent staff.

Online sales rose by 77% during the year, to £6.3bn, as the grocer swiftly

doubled its capacity for online deliveries to 1.5m slots per week. In the final three months of the year online groceries made up 18% of sales as fear of the virus kept shoppers at home.

A poor performance at the group's banking operation and a drop in underlying sales at Tesco's Booker grocery wholesale business, which was hit by the closure of restaurants and cafes, also hit profits.

Tesco announced in December that it would repay in full £535m in business rate relief. It had come under pressure to return the cash after paying out a £315m dividend to investors in October.

All the major grocers have now returned their business rate relief after benefiting from the switch to cooking, and drinking, at home while restaurants, cafes and pubs have been shut. Waitrose, the Co-Op and Iceland have declined to repay the relief they received.

Tesco said it anticipated that sales growth would slow as its shoppers returned to eating out and going

to the pub, but profits would benefit as the one-off costs caused by the pandemic fell away. It pledged to maintain its dividend and to continue to forgo any available business rates relief.

Ken Murphy, Tesco's chief executive, who presented his first set of full year results after six months at the helm, said the retailer had shown "incredible strength and agility" during the pandemic.

"We have strengthened our brand and increased customer satisfaction. We have doubled the size of our online business and through Clubcard we're building a digital customer platform," he said.

Murphy said he would not be outlining a major new strategy for Tesco, but the group would be focusing on

£892m

Extra costs from hiring more staff for online deliveries and to cover employees off work due to Covid

ensuring its prices were low compared with rivals.

He said older shoppers were returning to large stores, now that they had received their vaccinations, but it was difficult to assess the extent of changes in behaviour because of the timing of Easter and a sudden arrival of cold weather which had also affected sales.

To deal with increased demand for online orders, the group opened a new robot-powered fulfilment centre within its West Bromwich superstore during the year. A second is planned for May in its superstore at the Lakeside shopping mall in Essex and four more by February.

Tesco said the pandemic had changed customer behaviour, with shoppers visiting stores less frequently, but buying 50% more items on each visit.

Tesco had been "recast" in the eyes of the public, said Ross Hindle, an analyst at Third Bridge investment research firm.

"While Tesco's Aldi price match strategy has been somewhat successful, the competitive threat of the discounters remains Tesco's biggest risk. The end of the furlough scheme, a potential rise in unemployment, and inflation worries could all send shoppers back to its cheaper competitors," he said.

Tesco's shares slid 2% to 227p yesterday.

Aerospace body urges minister to secure Liberty Steel supply

Jasper Jolly

The aerospace industry is calling on the government to intervene to secure the supply of the specialist steel products it relies on, as Liberty Steel struggles to gain funding.

Liberty Steel's owner, Sanjeev Gupta, is urgently seeking finance after the collapse of Greensill Capital, previously its key lender. Liberty Steel is the UK's third-largest steel-maker, employing about 3,500 staff, while Gupta's broader GFG metals empire employs 35,000 worldwide.

ADS, which represents aerospace and defence companies including Airbus and Rolls-Royce, said its members were particularly keen to maintain supply from Liberty Steel's sites in Rotherham and Stocksbridge.

The South Yorkshire plants produce high-strength steel resistant to corrosion, making it a key material for jet engines, landing gear and the propellers on smaller aircraft. Kevin Craven, ADS's interim chief executive, has written to Kwasi Kwarteng, the business secretary, asking for his "urgent intervention to resolve the situation" before shortages and increased costs hit, in a letter seen by the Guardian.

It said: "There are very few alternative sources worldwide for these types of aerospace steel and capacity is limited. A significant problem with availability of these specialist steels is therefore anticipated once stock is consumed."

Companies had provided steel suppliers including Liberty with customer guarantees, giving earlier notice of orders and speeding payment for products, ADS said.

Rolls-Royce, the jet engine maker, put in a bulk order for enough steel to last it until the end of the year. The order allowed Liberty Steel to restart production at Rotherham, according to union sources, after workers were furloughed to save cash.

Kwarteng has indicated that the government is considering options to step in to save Liberty Steel if it falls into administration or liquidation. On Tuesday, he said he was "very keen to see that these assets, which are good assets, continue to operate".

However he turned down a request for a £170m loan from Gupta, citing concern about Liberty's opaque corporate structure. There are also concerns about its governance, with questions over loans made by Greensill tied to invoices for "prospective" work with companies that did not have a relationship with Liberty.

US's biggest cryptocurrency exchange raises \$76bn in New York flotation

Lauren Aratani

The soaring value of cryptocurrencies added another name to the list of the world's wealthiest people yesterday when Coinbase, the US's largest cryptocurrency exchange, joined the Nasdaq stock exchange.

Brian Armstrong, the chief executive and co-founder of Coinbase, has a 20% stake in the company, which leaped to a value of \$76bn (£55bn) on its first day of trading as shares rose more than 50% from the \$250 set on Tuesday to \$381. At this price, when the value of unvested share options and other restricted stocks is included, Coinbase is valued at \$99.9bn - more than Lloyds and Barclays added together.

Surging prices for assets including stocks and cryptocurrencies led to the creation of a record 2,755 billionaires last year, according to Forbes' annual poll. At \$20bn, Armstrong would enter the list at 88th place.

Armstrong founded the company in 2012 with Fred Ehrsam - who also



▲ Coinbase Global staff watching in New York as the cryptocurrency exchange listed on Nasdaq yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS

became a billionaire yesterday - with the goal of making cryptocurrency accessible to the masses. At the time, those looking to invest in bitcoin needed some basic programming skills to operate bitcoin's network.

Now, users of Coinbase can buy 50 types of cryptocurrencies on the

platform, the most popular of which are bitcoin and ethereum.

Coinbase is the first major cryptocurrency business to list on the US stock market. Its flotation marks the latest shift of cryptocurrency from the fringe to the mainstream.

Earlier this year, Elon Musk, the chief executive of Tesla, announced that his company had invested \$1.5bn in bitcoin and would soon accept the cryptocurrency as a form of payment. Major Wall Street players, including

JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs, have also indicated an interest recently.

The endorsements have helped push up the price of bitcoin, which hit a new high on Tuesday, topping \$63,000. It has more than doubled in value this year and the value of Coinbase has soared alongside it. Last September the exchange was valued at \$6bn. Coinbase claims to have 56m verified users in more than 100 countries who access the platform to invest, save and use cryptocurrency.

Uber ordered to rehire drivers sacked by 'robot' technology

Sarah Butler

Uber has been ordered to reinstate five British drivers struck off from its ride-hailing app by robot technology.

The drivers, backed by the App Drivers & Couriers Union (ADCU) and the campaign group, Worker Info Exchange, argued that they had been wrongly accused of fraudulent activity based on mistaken information from Uber's technology, and that the company had failed to provide the drivers with proper evidence to support the allegations.

In a judgment published yesterday, the district court of Amsterdam – where Uber's European headquarters is based – said the ride-hailing app should reinstate the five British drivers, and one Dutch driver, because the decisions had been “based solely on automated processing, including profiling”. The judgment was made by default, as Uber did not attend the hearing; the firm said it had been unaware of the legal action until last

week. Abdifatah Abdalla, one of the drivers who worked in London, said he had started driving for Uber in 2014 and had completed more than 7,000 trips before being summarily dismissed in September.

He says he was sent a message informing him that he was being ousted from the Uber app because of “security concerns related to account sharing”. Although he says no evidence was provided, he was told that “the decision is final”, according to messages seen by ITV News.

Another driver, who did not wish to be named, told the Guardian he had been dismissed last year after Uber found people had tried to log on to the app using his account from two different parts of London at the same time. He also lost his private hire licence after having worked for Uber for seven years, and has not worked since. “I was very confused. I didn't share my details. They didn't say anything [about how they had come to conclusion he had shared his Uber sign-on]. They just close your account.”

'For the Uber drivers robbed of their jobs, this has been a nightmare come true'

James Farrar
Worker Info Exchange

As a result of being dismissed by Uber, Abdalla lost his private hire licence from Transport for London (TfL) in October and so was unable to drive for two other apps he worked for – Kapten and Bolt.

TfL said Uber had told it that Abdalla had been removed from the app because two devices were found to have been used to attempt to access his account within minutes of each other, from two different locations which were a significant distance apart. It said this suggested that someone other than Abdalla had been attempting to use his account.

Abdalla says he had no idea how

Uber could have found that someone tried to access his account from a separate location and insists he did not share his details. “It has been a horrible situation. I have had to work as a delivery driver, but it is not as well paid and they only call you when they are busy.”

The City of London magistrates court has since ordered TfL to reinstate his private hire licence.

James Farrar, the director of Worker Info Exchange, said: “For the Uber drivers robbed of their jobs and livelihoods, this has been a dystopian nightmare come true. They were publicly accused of ‘fraudulent activity’ on the back of poorly governed use of bad technology.”

“This case is a wake-up call for lawmakers about the abuse of surveillance technology now proliferating in the gig economy.” He claimed gig economy groups were “hiding management control in algorithms”.

An Uber spokesperson said: “Uber only became aware of this default judgment last week, due to representatives for the ADCU not following proper legal procedure. With no knowledge of the case, the court handed down a default judgment in our absence, which was automatic and not considered.”

A TfL spokesperson said: “All drivers have the right to appeal a decision to remove a licence through the magistrates court.”

Hundreds of British Gas workers to lose jobs in new contract row

Jillian Ambrose

Hundreds of British Gas engineers will lose their jobs after refusing to sign up to tougher employment terms imposed by the company's controversial “fire and rehire” scheme.

On 1 April Britain's biggest energy supplier handed dismissal notices to close to 1,000 of its engineers, who install and repair boilers and heating systems for the company's nine million service customers.

The engineers were granted a grace period of two weeks in which to change their minds and sign up to contracts that call for longer hours together with shifts over weekends and bank holidays – or lose their jobs.

In the last two weeks hundreds of engineers are understood to have signed up to the contracts, leaving 500 having refused to sign by the end of Tuesday. The company expects a final wave of 11th-hour contract signings on Wednesday morning, to leave between 300 and 400 engineers without a job.

The end of the grace period is expected to draw a line on the bitter nine-month battle between British Gas executives and trade union representatives at GMB, which has accused the supplier of “bullying” its employees.

The “fire and rehire” scheme is legal, but it has provoked fury among employees and the GMB. British Gas set out the plans last summer as part of a formal consultation process with trade unions to streamline its employment contracts and increase productivity to help rescue the business from the risk of financial ruin.

Under the new contracts, full-time engineers would be required to work an extra three hours a week, or 40 hours a week in total, and would not be paid a higher rate when working on weekends and public holidays.

The terms were accepted by most trade unions and employees, but the GMB has staged more than 40 days of strike action in recent months in protest against the “mass sacking” of its members.

Andy Prendergast, GMB acting national secretary, said that although many of its 8,000 engineers have agreed to the new terms “under duress”, the company's “appalling” treatment of its staff had damaged morale across the workforce.

A spokesman for British Gas said the company was changing the way it worked “to give our customers the service they want and protect the future of our company”.

“While change is difficult, reversing our decline, – which has seen us lose over three million customers, cut over 15,000 jobs and seen profits halved over the last 10 years – is necessary,” the spokesman said.

Top firms sign up to battle against US bills that threaten right to vote

Edward Helmore
New York

Amazon, BlackRock, Google, Starbucks, the billionaire investor Warren Buffett and hundreds of other companies published a letter yesterday condemning “discriminatory legislation” that they say is designed to hinder voting rights in the US.

The letter – the biggest statement yet from corporate America – follows weeks of heated debate over corporate opposition to a series of Republican-sponsored bills that critics charge will restrict voting rights in states across the US.

“We Stand for Democracy,” the double-page advertisement in the New York Times and Washington Post, reads. “Voting is the lifeblood of our democracy and we call upon all Americans to take a nonpartisan stand for this basic and most fundamental right of all Americans.”

The statement was organized by two of the US's most prominent black executives, Kenneth Chenault, former chief executive of American Express, and Kenneth Frazier, the chief executive of Merck. Both executives have been prominent in opposition to restrictive voting laws and in leading a response from the business community.

The statement does not address



specific election legislation in states but it is the clearest indication yet that US firms are looking to present a united front despite calls from senior Republicans, including Donald Trump, to stay out of politics.

In an interview with the Times, Chenault said: “It should be clear that there is overwhelming support in corporate America for the principle of voting rights.” Frazier added that the statement was intended to be non-partisan.

The effort to rise above partisan politics comes after several companies, including Coca-Cola and Delta Airlines, found themselves at the centre of a dispute over voting rights legislation passed in Georgia.

▲ Corporate America has spoken out against Republican bills that could restrict voting rights across the US
PHOTOGRAPH: FREDERIC J BROWN/AFP/GETTY

Lawmakers in the state threatened to withdraw tax breaks after the firms spoke out against the measures.

The new statement comes after Chenault and Frazier convened a Zoom call of 100 CEOs over the weekend and is notable also for those that did not add their names, including Coca-Cola, Delta and Home Depot.

Coca-Cola and Delta declined to comment, according to the Times, while Home Depot said in a statement that “the most appropriate approach for us to take is to continue

to underscore our belief that all elections should be accessible, fair and secure.”

Some signatories, including Buffett, head of Berkshire Hathaway, elected to sign personally rather than on behalf of their companies.

The newspaper ad follows a declaration on Tuesday by automakers ahead of voting legislation hearings in Michigan that they oppose election laws that would inhibit voting.

In a Twitter statement, GM said: “We are calling on Michigan lawmakers and state legislatures across the nation to ensure any changes to voting laws result in protecting and enhancing the most precious element of democracy.”

Business view

Larry Elliott



Cameron lobbied for a firm with a failing business model – and stood to win big himself

There is nothing new about lobbying. The term is supposed to date back to the 19th century, when the US president Ulysses Grant was waylaid in the lobby of the Willard hotel, just down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, by people petitioning him for jobs.

Nor is there anything illegal, or even wrong, about it. MPs are constantly bombarded by lobbyists urging them to support everything from changes to building regulations to the size of the aid budget.

It is also naive to imagine a world where former politicians are not tempted to try pulling

the odd string or two for corporate interests. David Cameron was useful to Lex Greensill precisely because, as the former prime minister, he could expect current members of the government to respond to his calls.

All that said, the government can count itself fortunate that the NHS's vaccine programme is going so well, because the more that comes out about the Greensill affair, the murkier it all gets.

All the ingredients are there: conflicts of interest; alleged breaches of the ministerial code; the potential for personal enrichment in the event that the lobbying paid off; the involvement of senior ministers, including the chancellor, Rishi Sunak.

Boris Johnson has said he shares the “widespread concerns about some of the stuff we are reading about”, and that is welcome, because what we are reading about is a former prime minister lobbying the current chancellor of the exchequer on behalf of a company failing because the weakness of its business model had been exposed.

A bumper payday for Cameron himself would have been the not inconsiderable spinoff benefit if he had been successful in his lobbying efforts.

Given the government's majority, there was never any chance of the Commons backing Labour's call for a parliamentary inquiry. But if the independent review headed by Nigel Boardman is to have any real credibility, it must address the following questions.

Is the current system of lobbying unsavoury and helping to create a culture of cronyism? Should former politicians be forced to wait longer before lobbying on behalf of commercial interests, or even be forbidden from ever doing so? Is it right that a current civil servant can also be working part-time as an adviser for a company?

Does the ministerial code need to be tightened so that Sunak and the health secretary, Matt Hancock, have to come clean about

all approaches made to them, and their response to them? Or is this a case of “Move along, nothing to see here”?

EasyJet uplift

Johan Lundgren, chief executive of easyJet, is in remarkably good spirits considering the dreadful winter the budget airline has just suffered. Passenger numbers were almost 90% down on the previous year and most planes remained on the ground.

But hope springs eternal, and Lundgren thinks a bumper summer could be in store as Europe comes out of hibernation and restrictions on travel are lifted.

Investors seem to share his confidence: a rising share price reflected the expectations of better times to come.

The easyJet boss thinks a bumper summer could be in store as Europe comes out of hibernation – and investors share his view

Three things will need to happen to make this rosy scenario come to pass, however.

First, the prime holiday destinations need to be opened up to foreign tourists, which in turn involves the EU bringing down infection rates and accelerating its vaccine programme. This is by no means guaranteed.

Second, the British government has to put the majority of the most popular countries on its green list, so that returning holidaymakers can avoid the need to quarantine.

Given the increasingly cautious tone of ministerial pronouncements, from the prime minister downwards, that's by no means a certainty either.

The government can't afford a fourth lockdown and the pandemic news from around the globe is not especially encouraging.

Third, the government will need to respond to pressure from easyJet and other carriers to reduce the cost of PCR tests for departing and returning passengers.

These cost between £150 and £250, making them in many cases more expensive than the flights, and Lundgren is probably right to assume that there will be plenty of households that will bridle at paying the thick end of £1,000 for a family of four to be tested and deemed Covid-free.

Asda's store bakeries to shut, risking 1,200 jobs, after shift in demand

Sarah Butler



▲ Baked goods will be made in a central bakery and then warmed up in Asda stores, under the proposals

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK WAUGH/ALAMY

Asda is to stop baking buns, bread and croissants in-store at its 341 super-markets, putting 1,200 jobs at risk.

In future, baked products will be made in a central bakery and then warmed in stores. The company said the changes would provide a broader range of products baked fresh several times a day, rather than once a day at present.

Asda said the proposal followed “a notable shift in customer buying behaviours” in recent years, with demand for speciality breads, wraps, bagels and pancakes outstripping that for traditional loaves.

The job cuts come less than two months after Asda said 5,000 jobs were at risk from the closures of two warehouses and elimination of thousands of back-office jobs. The Leeds-based retailer said the changes were not related to the £6.8bn sale of the company to the petrol forecourt billionaires Mohsin and Zuber Issa and the private equity group TDR Capital. That deal is yet to be cleared by the competition watchdog.

Derek Lawlor, chief merchandising

officer at Asda, said: “The current in-store bakery model has restricted our ability to respond to changing customer demands and offer them the speciality products and freshly baked goods they want to buy throughout the day.

“We know these proposed changes will be unsettling for colleagues and our priority is to support them during this process.”

Asda, which employs more than 140,000 people, will enter formal consultations with those potentially affected by the changes. It said the priority would be to move as many workers as possible into

alternative roles, with redundancy the final option.

Supermarkets have been trying to save cash in stores by cutting management roles and reducing services such as deli and bakery counters. Pressure from the fast-expanding discounters including Aldi, Lidl and B&M has forced them to cut costs in order to keep prices low.

Asda closed 400 of its traditional meat and fish counters last year, when Sainsbury's closed all its meat, fish and deli counters. Tesco pushed through a similar plan in 2019.

The coronavirus pandemic has also added to costs, because of the need to cover for absent or vulnerable staff, and because of the switch to less profitable online shopping.

Supermarket grocery sales have been strong during the pandemic, with restaurants and cafes closed for months and people eating at home more often. However, such sales are now expected to slow, with an increase in price competition, as families try to save cash during tough economic times.

British Land to invest in more open-air retail hubs out of town

Joanna Partridge

The property group British Land is looking to acquire more out-of-town retail parks, as it expects consumers will still want to shop at open-air locations that are accessible by car even after pandemic lockdown measures are eased.

The company, which owns shopping malls including Meadowhall in Sheffield and Drake Circus in Plymouth, also intends to buy more warehouses, to rent to retailers trying to service the booming demand for online shopping.

The group said its retail parks were “well connected and affordable to retailers” and facilitated click and collect, returns and shipping direct from store.

“We have seen this trend accelerate, as rates of online shopping have increased, with shoppers more confident visiting open-air locations they can access by car and where social distancing can be more easily managed,” it said in a trading update.

British Land expects to submit planning applications for two new rental warehouse sites, at Meadowhall and Teesside, spanning more than 1m sq ft (93,000 sq metres).

The commercial property company, which owns a portfolio worth £10.3bn, is also looking for

warehouses inside the M25, close to London, which it believes it will be able to rent out to retailers trying to fulfil growing customer requests for same-day delivery.

British Land has exchanged contracts for the purchase of a site in Enfield that is currently fully let to tenants, including the supermarket Waitrose.

The company said it had received 82% of rents due over the last 12 months, including 99% of office rents and 70% of retail rents. It reported it had received 76% of the rent due at the end of March within 11 days of the end of the quarter.

British Land, which slashed the value of its portfolio by almost £1bn in 2020 after the pandemic led to a sharp fall in the value of its retail assets, said it expected market rents for covered shopping centres to take longer to stabilise than at retail parks, due to higher occupancy costs and lower visitor numbers during the coronavirus pandemic.

After the reopening of non-essential retail in England and Wales on 12 April, 79% of stores in British Land's properties are trading again. The company expects this to increase when remaining non-essential stores reopen in Scotland, and if the road-map out of lockdown proceeds as planned.



▲ Drake Circus, Plymouth, one of British Land's shopping centres

400

Number of traditional meat and fish counters that Asda closed last year as it tried to drive down prices

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COMING SOON - **Cumbria** Kendal; **Essex** Witham; **Hants** Farnborough; **Kent** Orpington, Paddock Wood, Rainham, Swanley; **Northants** Towcester; **Oxfordshire** Kidlington; **Shropshire** Bridgnorth; **Somerset** Taunton; **Suffolk** Bury St Edmunds; **Surrey** Great Tattenhams, Oxted; **Wilts** Calne.

AWAITING PLANNING - **Cheshire** Handforth; **Devon** Barnstaple, Honiton, Totnes; **Essex** Saffron Walden; **Hants** Basingstoke, Drayton, Fareham, Fleet; **Kent** Broadstairs, Tenterden, Tonbridge; **Norfolk** Diss; **Notts** Ruddington; **Oxfordshire** Bicester; **West Midlands** King's Heath, Kings Norton, Shirley.

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Latest	
12 Apr 2021	419.51
Weekly average	
04 Apr 2021	419.28
14 Apr 2020	416.64
14 Apr 2011	393.00
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ES&R

Around the UK



Sun & Moon



World weatherwatch

Matt Andrews (MetDesk)

Around the world

	Algiers	17		Lisbon	20
	Ams'dam	10		Madrid	17
	Athens	20		Malaga	16
	Auckland	20		Melb'rne	18
	B Aires	23		Mexico C	26
	Bangkok	33		Miami	28
	Barcelona	14		Milan	12
	Basra	30		Mombasa	32
	Beijing	22		Moscow	20
	Berlin	7		Mumbai	33
	Bermuda	20		N Orleans	23
	Brussels	9		Nairobi	25
	Budapest	8		New Delhi	38
	C'hagen	10		New York	12
	Cairo	30		Oslo	10
	Cape Town	25		Paris	10
	Chicago	12		Perth	23
	Corfu	17		Prague	4
	Dakar	25		Reykjavik	8
	Dhaka	40		Rio de J	27
	Dublin	11		Rome	15
	Florence	14		Shanghai	16
	Gibraltar	16		Singapore	31
	H Kong	27		Stockh'm	9
	Harare	26		Strasb'g	11
	Helsinki	10		Sydney	25
	Istanbul	15		Tel Aviv	24
	Jo'burg	26		Tenerife	25
	K Lumpur	32		Tokyo	15
	K'mandu	28		Toronto	9
	Kabul	13		Vancouv'r	16
	Kingston	31		Vienna	8
	Kolkata	36		Warsaw	6
	L Angeles	19		Wash'ton	18
	Lagos	32		Well'ton	19
	Lima	22		Zurich	9

Sport

Football

Solskjær blames red seats for home hiccups

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Cricket

English cricket 'raised a finger' to BLM, says Wisden

Page 40 →



▲ Toni Nadal watches his new client Felix Auger-Aliassime train in Monte Carlo
► Celebrating Rafael's 2017 French Open win
ABACA PRESS/ALAMY



Winning formula Auger-Aliassime allies with Rafa's Uncle Toni to unlock stunted potential

Tumaini Carayol



In professional tennis, comebacks are as present as the air we breathe. Players return to competition on a whim, coaches inevitably find their way back to the circus and no one seems to be gone for too long. Still, few returns have resonated as strongly as that of the past week. Four years after his tearful final stanza as coach of his nephew, Rafael Nadal, as they clinched their 10th Roland Garros title in 2017, on Monday Toni Nadal returned to the ATP. However, when he took his spot in the Monte Carlo stands it was not in his old seat. He will now attempt to help guide the 20-year-old Canadian Félix Auger-Aliassime to the top of the sport.

Auger-Aliassime has long been hyped as a potentially defining talent of his young generation. Six years ago, he arrived on the tour in Granby, Canada as fully formed as a 14-year-old has ever been and he became the youngest player to win an ATP Challenger main-draw match. Auger-Aliassime's game in 2015 was striking on all fronts. His athleticism - driven by his tall, slender frame - was undeniable. His serve was already vicious and he harnessed such easy power on his forehand, generated with smooth and efficient technique. As he recorded his startling early results he seemed to play within himself, with a canyon of space into which he could grow.

Even more notable than that first glimpse was how Auger-Aliassime sustained his momentum so easily. He became a French Open junior finalist at 15, the US Open junior champion just after his 16th birthday and at that same age he marked himself as the youngest ATP Challenger winner in a decade. By 18 years old, he had reached an ATP 500 final in

Rio and the 2019 Miami Masters 1000 semi-finals. A sustained 2019 spring breakthrough across three surfaces culminated in a career high of 17 and as he has risen up the rankings he has demonstrated passion, drive and pleasantness.

Few have narrated Auger-Aliassime's precocity as well as Stefanos Tsitsipas after losing to the Canadian at Queen's Club in 2019: "It's upsetting obviously that he's better than me. I have to accept that he's better than me. I might never beat him, but if I think that way, just need to wait, years maybe, for that chance to come." Tsitsipas did not have to wait very long. He has smothered Auger-Aliassime the past three times, perhaps a reflection of his progression as Auger-Aliassime's game has briefly stagnated.

During his sustained presence at the top of the game, Auger-Aliassime's weaknesses have become increasingly visible. He has developed one of the heaviest pairs of groundstrokes on the tour and at full flight he is supreme, but his game is heavily reliant on his offence and less varied than anticipated. He has won only 19.6% of return games over the past year, which ranks him 68th on the ATP, and during tense moments both his second serve and forehand can falter. Perhaps most notably, he seems too rigid and rehearsed. When a match veers away from him he struggles to problem-solve and make the small in-match adjustments that underline so much of the top players' success. Matches can fall away from him at concerning speed.

Still, looking at his career from a slightly different angle can yield a radically different conclusion. Auger-Aliassime is ranked 21 in the world at only 20 years old, which is an incredible achievement in itself, and progress is often not linear - he has a long career ahead of him. His resilience counts in his favour. For example, after a dispiriting 2-6, 3-6 defeat by Dan Evans in the Murray River Open final in Melbourne the day before the Australian Open began, he admirably responded with a run to the second week as a tired Evans fell in the opening round. The defining stat of his career so far is his 0-7 record in ATP finals, having failed to win a single set in any final. The fact he is continually contesting them is a reflection of his ability in itself.

Toni Nadal will now attempt to be the difference to a young, top player. At some point his nephew will stand in their way

What seems clear is Auger-Aliassime has acted quickly to address any stagnation in his game and resume his rise up the rankings. After ending last season with four consecutive defeats, he split with his longtime coach Guillaume Marx and hired a renowned Canadian coach, Frédéric Fontang. His time at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Manacor last December yielded another connection as he announced his partnership with Toni Nadal last week. The hiring of such a prominent name is in itself a statement of his ambition.

As this story unfolds, it will be one of the most fascinating of the year. Having almost single-handedly moulded one of the greats, Toni Nadal will now attempt to be the difference to a young, top player in a far more subtle manner alongside another coach, Fontang, who travels with Auger-Aliassime. At some point his nephew will stand in their way.

Their first match together reflected the work to be done. On Tuesday, after the first day of the Monte Carlo Masters was rained out, Auger-Aliassime fell 7-6 (3), 6-1 against Chile's world No 24, Cristian Garín. The Canadian had led 5-2 in the first set, only to lose confidence in his forehand and then, not for the first time in recent months, he spent 50 minutes failing to recover it. The work begins to ensure such events are in the past and he will surely relish it.

'We still have bills, so I drove for Sainsbury's'

Sarah Moore has delivered groceries in the pandemic but crowdfunding bagged what she needs to get back on track

Giles Richards

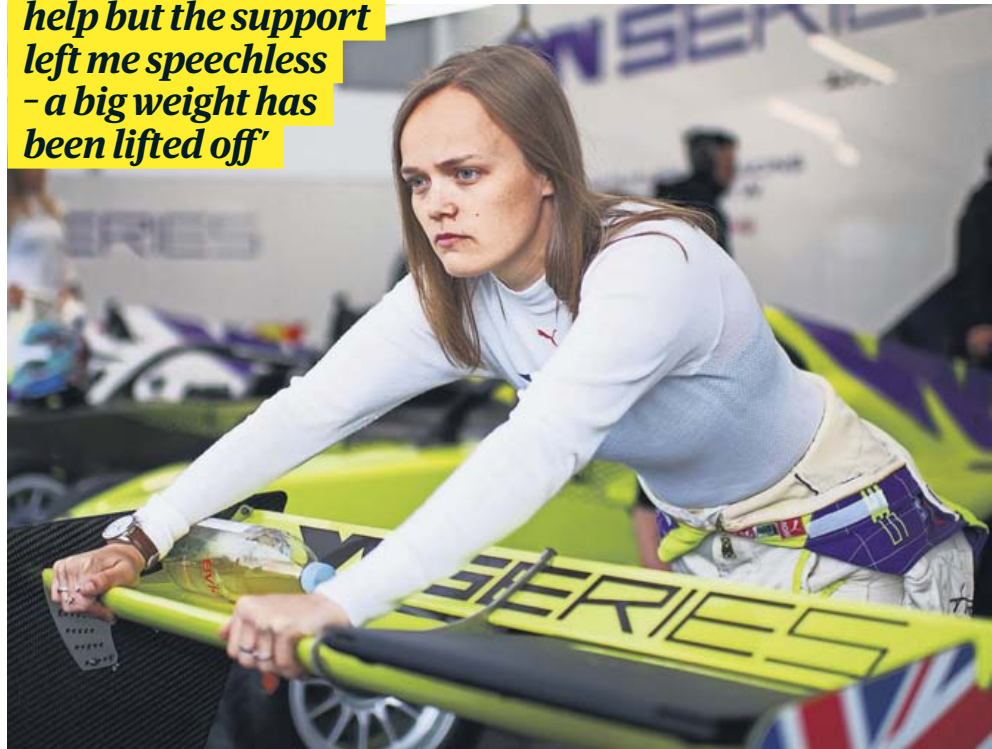
The British W Series driver Sarah Moore had been looking forward to going racing again this year. Instead she found herself confronted by one of the disheartening, blunt realities of the pandemic. Her income gone and unable to afford a new helmet, Moore was forced to look to the kindness of strangers to ensure she can climb behind the wheel again this season. Their reaction left her speechless with gratitude.

"It takes a lot to make me cry but I have been quite emotional over the last couple of days," she says. After enduring a tough year in 2020 when she swapped a racing car for a delivery van and had to postpone her wedding twice, the 27-year-old from Harrogate is on a high for 2021.

Moore will compete in the all-female W Series this season, the championship's second after the 2020 calendar had to be abandoned. To do so, however, she required a new helmet and was unable to do her job as a self-employed coach and race-driving instructor - her income in 2020 had all but disappeared.

"When Covid hit as I was self-employed that really took its toll. We all thought and hoped it would be just a few months and we would get through, but then the reality of it struck and I had to look at how I was going to survive in the long term."

'I hoped for some help but the support left me speechless - a big weight has been lifted off'



◀ Sarah Moore began karting when she was four and was the first woman to win the Britcar Endurance Championship in 2018
MATTHIAS HANGST/GETTY IMAGES

Moore took the advice of a friend and, although reluctant, set up a GoFundMe page on Tuesday last week. Two days later it had reached her target of £3,000. It had been an extraordinary and unexpected step to have to take but one that has ensured her racing future.

"I was hoping for some help, but the support I have received has left me speechless. The motorsport community is so supportive and I can't thank everyone who became involved enough for all they did in my hour of need. It is as if a big weight has been lifted off my shoulders."

Racing has been Moore's life. She began karting when she was four and went on to win the Ginetta Junior Championship in 2009, after which the British Racing Drivers' Club awarded her their rising star award. In 2018 she became the first woman to win the Britcar Endurance Championship. She is a proven talent but, like so many others and especially women in racing, has struggled to find the backing to further her career. Covid was almost a knockout blow.

Moore admits it has been tough on her mentally. "It is hard to put into words what this meant to me as racing is such an important part of my life. So not being able to do it was difficult."

Unable to continue with the day job, she did what she could during the lockdowns. "Racing drivers still have bills to pay so I've been out doing deliveries for Sainsbury's. I'm classed as a key worker which gives me a sense of pride."

But the income did not meet the cost of a new helmet. Her situation is indicative of how hard it is for competitors who are not well backed by investors or family. The role the W Series now plays is crucial in ensuring drivers such as Moore can continue their careers.

The championship pays all of its 20 drivers' costs, no financial backing is required and it gives them a platform to showcase and develop their skills in a single-make F3 car.

The intention is to help promote a female driver into Formula One. This year, buoyed by the success of its inaugural season in 2019, the championship will be held as support races at eight F1 meetings, beginning on Saturday 26 June, with the race alongside qualifying for the French F1 Grand Prix. The exposure the series will receive by being part of F1 weekends is immense and after 2019 its impact was clear. The title winner, Jamie Chadwick, was taken on by the Williams F1 team as a development driver; Liechtenstein's Fabienne Wohlwend has become a household name in her home country with backing to race full-time; while the hugely talented Marta García, whose career had stalled owing to lack of funding, has seen her profile rocket in Spain.

Catherine Bond Muir, the W Series chief executive, believes Moore also epitomises how the championship can make a difference.

"Sarah is an example of why we set up W Series," she said. "We are providing a platform for drivers to come to us with talent, and talent alone, in order to race. We are striving to eliminate the financial barriers which prevent more women from reaching the upper echelons of motorsport."

"Our partnership with Formula One is a gamechanger and we hope the platform it provides will mean that fewer drivers face funding difficulties like Sarah's in the future."

Moore feels optimistic for that future on her biggest stage yet. "W Series has made sure that I will be racing in 2021," she said. "The series has given me such hope as I know I can go out and do what I love doing without a financial black cloud looming over me. I have never been so excited for a race season to start."

Swimming

Peaty 'ahead of where I should be' in impressive trials victory

Sean Ingle

Olympic 100m breaststroke champion Adam Peaty sent an ominous warning to his rivals in Tokyo this summer by storming to victory at the British trials - and then declaring that his performance showed he was "way ahead of where I should be".

No other man has gone inside 58 seconds but Peaty has now done so on 15 occasions after winning the final in 57.39 sec - only half a second outside his world record. The world silver medallist James Wilby was nearly a second and a half back in second and, incredibly, the 26-year-old Peaty now holds the 20 fastest times in history.

"I'll take it," he said. "I've had a lot going on with a kid and moving house so I am happy to come here and consolidate those top 20 ever times. For me the execution was perfect. I'm way ahead of where I should be now so I can take a lot of confidence into the summer and the Olympics."

Peaty also admitted that the birth of his son, George, in September had motivated him like nothing else as he seeks to become the first British swimmer to defend an Olympic

title. He promised he would get even quicker in July. "There are always ways to get faster," he added. "Today there were no crowds, so it was a bit tougher. But that was a mental game but I still got to exactly where I needed to be. It's two lengths of the pools. A lot of people overcomplicate it."

Double Olympic medallist Duncan Scott also impressed on the first of four days of the trials as he went under the British record with a time of 1:55.90 in the 200m individual medley.

Meanwhile Freya Anderson underlined her potential by winning the women's 200m freestyle ahead of Abbie Wood in 1:56:48 - while Kieran Bird beat his personal best by nearly five seconds to win the men's 400m freestyle in 3:46:00.



▲ Adam Peaty won the men's 100m breaststroke final in 57.39 seconds

Racing

Tactical win 'to take Queen's mind off things'

Greg Wood
Newmarket

The Queen's racing colours were carried to victory for the first time since the death of the Duke of Edinburgh on Friday when Tactical, a winner at the Royal meeting in 2020, took the European Free Handicap at Newmarket.

Tactical, ridden by Oisín Murphy, stayed on strongly along the fair rail to beat the favourite, Naval Crown, and set up a return to Royal Ascot for the Jersey Stakes in June. When Murphy had his original path blocked by Adam Kirby on Royal Scimitar he looked like being an unlucky loser, as Naval Crown took the initiative. But William Buick's mount drifted off the rail, allowing Tactical just enough room to get up and win by a neck.

"Let's hope this gives the Queen something to take her mind off things at the moment," John Warren, the Queen's racing manager, said. "It's an alternative thing to think about, which is great. It's been a long winter waiting for the action to start, so it's rather nice that it's started off with a nice win at the start of the season."

Tactical took the five-furlong Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot last year and then followed up over six furlongs in the Group Two July Stakes at Newmarket's July Festival.

"Andrew [Balding, Tactical's trainer] and I have been discussing with the Queen whether or not we should experiment today," Warren said, "to find out if he could be a [seven-furlong] Jersey [Stakes] horse, a [one-mile] St James's Palace horse or a [six-furlong] Commonwealth Cup horse, if he's up to that."

"So today was a learning mission to see if we were going to bring him back to six thereafter. He's proved today that seven furlongs is no problem, so I think it's all roads to Ascot for I think perhaps the Jersey, and with a St James's Palace entry, why not?"

Sacred has been cut from 50-1 to around 16-1 for the 1,000 Guineas on 2 May after securing her first win since her debut at Newmarket last June in the Group Three Nell Gwyn Stakes, her first start beyond six furlongs.

Ryan Moore had to be patient and wait for racing room before driving Sacred past Saffron Beach in the closing stages. "I've always thought she would stay and she's proved that today," William Haggas, Sacred's trainer, said, "and I always thought she had a turn of foot and she's proved that."

Greg Wood's tips

Newmarket 1.15 Puy Mary 1.50 Creative Force 2.25 Kingsofthemidlands 3.00 Oxted 3.35 La Barrosa (nb) 4.10 Scope 4.45 Balearic
Cheltenham 1.30 Martello Sky 2.05 Scholastic 2.40 Bourbon Beauty (nap) 3.15 Win My Wings 3.50 Liberty Bella 4.25 Miss Amelia 5.00 Signal Point
Ripon 2.15 Mytilda 2.50 Highland Rocker 3.25 Mutanaaseq 4.00 Howzer Black 4.35 Emperor Spirit 5.10 Glinbury 5.40 Afandem
Newcastle 4.55 Blow Your Horn 5.25 Maytal 5.55 Briardale 6.25 Francisco Bay 6.55 Headshot 7.25 Unforgotten 7.55 Royal Advice 8.25 Athollblair Bay

Cricket

England 'raised a finger' with early end to taking a knee, says Wisden

Ali Martin

Were England's cricketers too hasty in their decision to stop taking a knee last summer? It is a charge laid down by this year's Wisden, which states the move to quietly abandon the Black Lives Matter gesture "raised a finger" at the issue.

The editor's notes in the 158th edition of cricket's "bible" initially praise England and West Indies for taking a knee during the first Test series of the Covid-affected season, as well as Jason Holder (one of the five cricketers of the year), Michael Holding and Ebony Rainford-Brent for powerful testimonies on the topic of racial inequality.

However, after England and Ireland repeated this pre-match display of unity before their three one-day internationals, it then disappeared for the visits of Pakistan and Australia. Lawrence Booth, the Wisden editor, echoes Holding's view at the time, when the Sky commentator and former West Indies fast bowler spoke of "lame excuses".

Booth writes: "For a while, cricket said and did the right things. The ECB admitted they had let things slip, and promised action. But cricket isn't fond of radicalism (unless there is money to be made)."

"When the Australians touched down, both they and England made noises about placing education above protest, as if they couldn't coexist. From two countries with mainly white teams and a

dubious history of race relations, the optics were terrible.

"Cricket has been here before: a sympathetic ear, a pat on the shoulder, a promise that things will change. They never do, but this time they must. By not taking a knee, cricket raised a finger."

In a relatively slimline edition (albeit still 1,248 pages, down from 1,536 last year), Wisden explores diversity in cricket with an essay by Rainford-Brent, remembers those in the sport lost to Covid-19 and credits the England and Wales Cricket Board for a swift response to the pandemic that still allowed international cricket to be staged.

Darren Stevens is also named among the five cricketers of the year. Aged 44 years and 350 days at the time of today's publication, the Kent all-rounder is the fifth oldest recipient. Along with Holder and Stevens, Zak Crawley and Dom Sibley also receive this once-in-a-career award as does Mohammad Rizwan.

Ben Stokes is leading cricketer in the world for the second year running, with Australia's Beth Mooney awarded the women's equivalent.



At 1,248 pages this year's Wisden - published today - is relatively slimline, reflecting the truncated 2020 season

Streak hit with eight-year ban for corruption

Ali Martin

Heath Streak, the former Zimbabwe Test captain, has been banned from cricket for eight years after passing on betting information and introducing four players to a would-be corruptor in exchange for gifts that included \$35,000 in bitcoin.

The 47-year-old, who won 254 international caps and played county cricket for Warwickshire and Hampshire, accepted five charges under the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption code for offences in 2017 and 2018.

It follows an investigation into Streak's work as a coach of both Zimbabwe and in various Twenty20 tournaments around the world, during which time he was in regular contact with an unnamed Indian man who has been labelled "Mr X".

After being initially approached about setting up a new league in his home country, Streak was found to have then shared inside

information with Mr X before matches in international cricket, the Bangladesh Premier League, the Indian Premier League and the Afghanistan Premier League.

Streak also passed on the contact details of four players, including one national team captain, and in the case of two also vouched for Mr X. He was found to have received a bitcoin payment and an iPhone for his wife in exchange for his assistance, both of which were not disclosed to anti-corruption officials at the time.

The ICC has said Streak also disrupted the investigation by exchanging - and then deleting - a string of WhatsApp messages with Mr X ahead of his interview, before eventually accepting the sanctions under which he is now banned from cricket until 2029.

Streak played 65 Tests and 189 one-day internationals for Zimbabwe between 1993 and 2005.



▲ Heath Streak accepted five charges under the ICC's anti-corruption code



▼ Mark Cavendish (blue) sprints to win his third Tour of Turkey stage
STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES

Cycling

Cavendish's hat-trick of Turkish delights caps stunning return

Manxman can make Grand plans again as three stage wins in three days follows years of injury and illness

William Fotheringham

at-tricks are rare in professional cycling. Before Mark Cavendish sprinted into the finish in the Turkish resort of

Kemer yesterday afternoon to win for the third day in a row, it was 18 months since any professional cyclist had done anything similar. To pull off such a thing at the age of 35, after being within an ace of a tearful retirement a few months earlier, gave this a special twist.

The feat concluded a painful three-year comeback that now looks as remarkable in its way as any in cycling, coming as it does after the stellar success of Cavendish's bumper years when he plucked stage wins and points prizes in Grand Tours by the hatload, and added a world road title to boot. There will now be speculation the Manxman should head for the Tour de France to tilt one last time at Eddy Merckx's all-time stage victory record - he is four short of the Cannibal's 34 - but at present a ride in the season-ending Tour of Spain looks more likely.

The sprint victory at Konya on Monday marked the end of four years in which Cavendish had struggled for form, sustained one fracture after another, illness, depression, and on occasion tensions with team management. "It's irrelevant how many wins in a

row, it's just nice to win again," he said. "At the beginning of the year all I wanted to do is win a race, and now I have done it three times."

Cavendish's nightmare began after an annus mirabilis in 2016, when he won four stages in the Tour de France and finally achieved two long-term goals when he wore the yellow jersey, and won a medal at the Rio Olympics. The following spring he was diagnosed with the Epstein-Barr virus and, having recovered enough to ride the Tour, he broke a shoulder in a terrifying sprint-finish crash.

By spring 2018 Cavendish was free of the virus, and he managed a stage win at the Dubai Tour, but he then endured a rapid-fire series of debilitating crashes, damaging his previously broken shoulder at the Abu Dhabi Tour, breaking a rib at Tirreno-Adriatico, then fracturing another a few days later after piling into a bollard at high speed in the Milan-San Remo Classic. He also suffered a relapse of the virus. The following year was marked by yet more pile-ups, and a dispute within the Dimension Data team over his non-selection for the Tour.

Last year Cavendish reunited with the coach of his formative years, Rod Ellingworth, at the Bahrain-McLaren team, but he struggled to find form and opportunities when the racing



▲ Mark Cavendish may set his sights on the season-ending Tour of Spain

season was curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic. He did not look at ease in the few finish sprints he tried to contest, and ended the autumn as a bit-part player in one-day Classics.

After one such race, Gent-Wevelgem, Cavendish suggested in a tearful interview that he might not be racing again, and when the season ended he appeared to be struggling to find a team.

He was thrown an unlikely, and late, lifeline by the most prolific winners in the sport, Deceuninck-Quickstep of Belgium, but only after he agreed to take a personal sponsor with him.

At the start of the season Cavendish said 2021 would not be about trying to win what he had previously, and that if anyone expected him to win six stages of the Tour de France that was "fairytale land".

But he had a different look about him compared to 2020, twice coming second, at the GP José Samyn, and in a stage of the Coppi e Bartali, where he briefly led overall, the first time he had pulled on a race leader's jersey in four years.

Last week he was close to a massive comeback victory at the Scheldeprijs race in Belgium; his third place came after more than 130km of fighting to get into the front group of 30 and then staying there. Scheldeprijs underlined what may be the next issue facing Cavendish and his team, however.

Deceuninck were unable to get their tactics right in the finish, although they had both the Manxman and the Irishman Sam Bennett - probably the fastest sprinter on the road today - in the select front group.

The conundrum the team now face is how to balance a resurgent Cavendish alongside the obvious needs of Bennett, who is five years younger, and last year won two stages at the Tour de France as well as the green points jersey.

But given the dark place that Cavendish has come from, it's a dilemma he and his team manager Patrick Lefevere can face with relative equanimity.

Sport Football

Rugby union

Lions and Premiership still stuck on player release

Gerard Meagher

The player release row between the British & Irish Lions and Premiership clubs is set to rumble into next week amid claims from within the league that the tourists are being “disingenuous” following Warren Gatland’s warning that squad hopefuls based in England could miss out.

Representatives from the Lions and the Premiership held talks on Tuesday in an effort to agree a deal that would enable England-based players to join Gatland’s preparation camp in Jersey, once their domestic seasons have finished, but were unable to reach an agreement.

The two-week camp is due to start in the same week as the Premiership play-offs and Gatland is resigned to being without the semi-finalists in Jersey, and the finalists for the Lions’ match against Japan, given it is on the same day as the domestic showpiece. Gatland, however, fears that all English clubs will withhold all players from the Jersey camp and the Japan Test and said that would put them at a disadvantage for selection.

The stumbling block is thought to be financial. The Lions paid the clubs about £70,000 a player in 2017 and those selected were allowed to join camps in Wales and Ireland once their domestic campaigns had finished. With the prospect of full crowds in South Africa implausible, however, the Lions are cash-strapped.

The Northampton director of rugby, Chris Boyd, believes “common sense must surely prevail” in an indication he does not envisage having to stop Courtney Lawes and Dan Biggar joining the Jersey camp if selected, should Saints fail to reach the Premiership play-offs. Exeter’s Rob Baxter, however, insisted the issue had “not been created by the Premiership”, and questioned whether Gatland would overlook players who had to miss the Lions camp.

“The Lions have known the Premiership schedule for a long time now,” said Baxter. “For the Lions to now turn around and say this is the scenario is a little bit disingenuous.”

“I have every confidence that Warren Gatland will pick the team that will do the job for him as that is the kind of coach that he is.”



Courtney Lawes is among the Lions hopes waiting for clarity

MPs demand ‘urgent’ inquiry into Football Index’s collapse

Letter with more than 40 signatories expresses concern over gambling body’s role

Greg Wood

More than 40 MPs and peers from across the political spectrum have signed a letter to Boris Johnson calling for “an urgent, independent public inquiry” into the collapse last month of Football Index, the self-styled football “stock market”.

The letter to the prime minister also says the inquiry should “include the role of the Gambling Commission and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in its terms of reference”.

The letter, coordinated by the all-party parliamentary group for gambling-related harm, pulls no punches in its description of the issues that led to the collapse of Football Index and a similar platform, Footstock last month. It is also highly critical of the Gambling Commission’s

failure to heed a warning in January 2020 about deep flaws in Football Index’s business model.

Football Index allowed its users to buy what it described as “shares” in football players, and paid “dividends” on each share according to a player’s performance. However, despite the appearance of being an “investment” product, it was a gambling platform, licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission.

“Football Index were essentially operating a ‘fraction reserve banking’ system,” the letter says, “where only a portion of users’ money and overall ‘Market Cap’ was available to withdraw at any one time.

“Such a platform should arguably have been subject to liquidity controls and capital ratios, which regulation by the Gambling Commission did not require. As a result, Football Index was fatally and financially reliant on user growth to not only avoid insolvency but to avoid its own customers losing what has been estimated as being £90m.”

The letter adds there is evidence that suggests “the Gambling

Commission licensed what became a pyramid scheme”. The letter concludes by warning the “scandal has brought into sharp focus regulation that is not fit for purpose and mechanisms for consumer redress that are nonexistent”, adding: “The Gambling Commission should not be allowed to mark their own homework. Allowing them to do so will mean affected individuals, their families, and the reputation of British gambling will be left to pay the price for this failure.”

The letter is signed by the Labour MP Carolyn Harris, a longstanding campaigner on gambling issues and the chair of the all-party parliamentary group for gambling-related harm, and



▲ Carolyn Harris, a campaigner on gambling issues, has signed the letter

Red seats confuse United players, Solskjær claims

Jamie Jackson

Ole Gunnar Solskjær has said Manchester United’s red shirts had merged with Old Trafford’s red surroundings and prevented players from seeing a teammate in the “split second” required during games, leading the club to introduce black banners in the stands.

United host Granada in the Europa League quarter-final second leg tonight with a 2-0 lead. Solskjær was asked why in previous rounds Real Sociedad and Milan were defeated 4-0 and 1-0 away but his team could only draw at home - 0-0 and 1-1 respectively.

“You’ll see a change now - see the banners around the club [stadium] are not red any more,” the manager said. “We’ve looked into this. There shouldn’t be a reason, really [for inferior home form] but some of the players mentioned that in the split-second decision you have to look over your shoulder to see if your teammate is there or not then the red shirt is on a red background with red seats.

“Then again if you have a 4-0 advantage [as against Sociedad] you don’t really have to win that game: 0-0 was a good result. Then in the first game against Milan we conceded in the last minute. I still think we’ve played some good football at home. We started off badly [in the Premier League] with three defeats to Palace, Tottenham and Arsenal, but we’ve improved.”

following his successful loan at West Ham, which has yielded eight goals in nine Premier League matches. But he did not answer whether the forward, who has another season his contract, would be offered a new deal.

“We welcome him back [then],” he said. “I am delighted for Jess and wish him all the best for the rest of the season.” Harry Maguire, Luke Shaw and Scott McTominay are suspended for today’s match.

‘The banners are not red any more - we’ve looked into this’



▲ United switched to black banners around Old Trafford earlier this month
LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

Lord Foster of Bath, the chair of Peers for Gambling Reform.

Other MPs who are signatories include Sir Ed Davey, the leader of the Liberal Democrats and the former Conservative leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a vice-chair of the all-party parliamentary group for gambling-related harm.

Announcements by government departments have been curtailed during the period of mourning following the death of Prince Philip, but DCMS is reported to be planning an independent inquiry into the collapse of Football Index and the role played by the Gambling Commission, which could be announced next week.

Officials in the department are keen to stress the concern among ministers over the company’s failure, and that the DCMS investigation will have the advantage of being launched and completed more swiftly than a full public inquiry.

The Guardian first reported on growing concerns about the future of Football Index in January, when several crashes in its market had left customers with millions of pounds trapped on the platform.

A final, catastrophic crash in the value of “shares” followed in early March after the site’s management announced a cut in “dividends” of about 80%, and it suspended trading a few days later, a few hours before the Gambling Commission announced the suspension of its licence.

Football In brief

Paris Saint-Germain

Neymar feels ‘at home’ amid contract talks

Neymar called Paris Saint-Germain his home after the team reached the Champions League semi-finals. The Brazilian is currently negotiating a contract extension. “I don’t think this is even a topic any more; I obviously feel very comfortable, at home at PSG,” Neymar told TNT Sports Brazil. “I feel happier than before.” Neymar’s deal is due to expire in June 2022 and the PSG president, Nasser al-Khelaifi, said the forward and Kylian Mbappé, whose deal expires at the same time, had “no reason to leave”. **Agencies**

Euro 2020

Rome’s Stadio Olimpico to be at least 25% full

Italy’s capital has been confirmed as the ninth definite European Championship host by the organisers, Uefa. Rome, which will stage the opening match of the delayed continental finals on 11 June, did not provide a minimum capacity guarantee to Uefa. However, Uefa said yesterday the Stadio Olimpico would be at a minimum 25% capacity for the four matches it will host - three group games and a quarter-final. Bilbao, Dublin and Munich are the three cities Uefa is still seeking additional information from. **PA Media**

City in dreamland as Foden fires through Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund 1
Bellingham 15

Manchester City 2
Mahrez 55pen, Foden 75

Manchester City win 4-2 on agg

Possession
Borussia Dortmund 37% Man City 63%

Shots on target
3 4

Total attempts
10 16

Jamie Jackson

Manchester City ended in ecstatic mood and with mission accomplished: a semi-final berth where they meet Paris Saint-Germain and which keeps alive their tilt at an unprecedented quadruple. This is the furthest City have journeyed under Pep Guardiola and only a second appearance in the Champions League last four, following the defeat by Real Madrid in 2016 when Manuel Pellegrini was in charge.

Guardiola's men are there because they found an edge after going behind

early on in the night. Phil Foden's thunderbolt on 75 minutes sealed a victory that will have belief surging that they can go all the way. City's was a second-half display of intent after an insipid opening 45 minutes in which they fell behind to Jude Bellingham's strike on the quarter-hour and were unable to dismantle Borussia Dortmund as they do most domestic opponents with ease.

If the gods proved kind - Emre Can conceding a penalty (which Riyad Mahrez converted) for a head-then-arm infringement seemed harsh - Guardiola's men deserved this for refusing to buckle. As Ilkay Gündogan said: "Everyone showed character. We didn't play well at all in the first 15 minutes. We struggled, were not brave enough, were a bit scared to lose something. I think that was quite obvious. After conceding, we are able to get back into the game, create a couple of good chances in the first half. Our target at half-time was to come back into the game and to score the first goal in the second half and get the game back into our hands. That's exactly what we did today and we are proud of that."

A week ago when losing the opening leg 2-1, the German club had proved lethal in pockets of play,



Jude Bellingham reacts after scoring Dortmund's opener

usually when breaking quickly. A first sight of this tactic had Mahmoud Dahoud firing hard at goal - fortunately for Ederson this went straight at him.

The next time Dortmund moved forward they struck via a move that showed up John Stones. When Can pinged a 40-yard pass over the top to Erling Haaland, City's centre-back was caught out. This allowed the

striker to turn the ball back to Dahoud. His shot was deflected to Bellingham who beat Ederson to the latter's left, the precocious 17-year-old following a maiden Bundesliga strike at the weekend with a first in this competition that makes him the youngest English player to have scored in the Champions League.

City were rocked. Dortmund came at them again almost instantly after the restart, Marco Reus's corner giving Manuel Akanji a free header that was simple for Ederson to scoop up. On the touchline Guardiola's stare blared concern.

What he saw next was City come through a frantic few moments to threaten Marwin Hitz's goal as Kevin De Bruyne crashed the ball off the bar. Then, a little later, the Belgian swerved a free-kick from the left towards the near post, Reus heading away. This was encouraging for City.

In what became a siege on Dortmund, a cute Foden touch allowed him to find a Mahrez raid to the right post, the Algerian going close to an equaliser. Edin Terzic's side were already in hanging-on mode. Oleksandr Zinchenko went near to confirming the wisdom of his inclusion (ahead of João Cancelo) but the left-back's header was plucked from the air by Hitz.

The question seemed not if but when City would draw level in the second half. They began it with two De Bruyne corners delivered from the left. Each was defended with ease at the near post. The pattern was set, though. It was a resumption of the opening period - Dortmund having

to dig deep to defend close to Hitz's goal - and their next close shave had the keeper tipping a Zinchenko cross-shot over. This time De Bruyne took the corner short but again the home team remained intact. Yet next came the pivotal moment: in the area Can went to head clear and the ball hit his left arm and after a delay VAR supported the decision of the referee, Carlos del Cerro Grande, to award a penalty.

Mahrez steadied himself, then smashed home to Hitz's left, and City were just over 30 minutes from the semi-finals. "It was a good one - he showed personality," said Guardiola of Mahrez.

The equation now was Dortmund required a goal to take the tie into extra-time. A swift swivel-and-shot from Dahoud was blocked but showed his side were not finished and what followed was the contest being compressed in the middle third. But Foden, enjoying the season of his nascent career, intervened and the delight on Guardiola's face as his protégé sprinted to him for a hug spoke of relief that a crucial barrier had been cleared. Their face-off with PSG awaits.

Borussia Dortmund	Manchester City
4-3-3	4-1-1-3-1
Hitz; Morey (Tigges 81), Akanji, Hummels, Guerreiro; Bellingham (Brandt 81), Can, Dahoud (Hazard 76); Knauff (Reyna 68), Haaland, Reus	Ederson; Walker, Stones, Dias, Zinchenko; Rodri; Gundogan; Mahrez (Sterling 88), De Bruyne, Foden; Silva
Subs not used: Bürki, Drljaca, Schulz, Reinier, Meunier, Raschl, Piszczek, Passlack	Subs not used: Steffen, Trafford, Aké, Jesus, Laporte, Torres, Mendy, Fernandinho, Cancelo, García

Referee Carlos del Cerro Grande (Sp)



Spot-on Mahrez keeps cool for City

Manchester City's Riyad Mahrez converts a 55th-minute penalty to put the tie back in his side's hands
INA FASSBENDER/
AFP VIA GETTY

Analysis
Louise Taylor

Guardiola's
psychology
extinguishes
the fireworks

The explosions were so loud some hotel staff feared the building was shaking. Three times during the early hours of yesterday morning Dortmund fans released industrial-strength fireworks outside the Radisson Blu, waking some of the Manchester City players inside. Pep Guardiola remained impervious. “I was sleeping like a baby, I didn’t hear a thing,” reported City’s manager before watching his defence come as near as any team’s to tranquillising Erling Haaland. Admittedly the £150m-rated Norwegian prodigy had his moments but Rúben Dias - channelling his inner Vincent Kompany - and friends held reasonably firm. If they did not exactly reduce Haaland’s price tag, City’s backline succeeded in extending his current goal drought to seven games. The reward for executing that nullification exercise to perfection is a place in the final four for the first time under Guardiola. Granted the not inconsiderable challenge of a semi-final against Neymar, Kylian Mbappé and the rest of Mauricio Pochettino’s PSG galacticos represents a considerable hazard along the road to next month’s final in Istanbul, but at least the Ataturk Stadium is now faintly visible on the horizon. At the end of a second half in which Phil Foden, Riyad

Build history
Manager sets
sights on
‘tough’ PSG tie

Jamie Jackson

Pep Guardiola praised Phil Foden and expressed his belief that Manchester City are “building history” after they knocked out Borussia Dortmund to reach the Champions League semi-finals for only a second time. City remain on course for a historic quadruple after Foden’s 75th-minute strike confirmed their passage - 4-2 on aggregate - and followed the

Mahrez, Kevin De Bruyne and İlkay Gündogan all excelled, City’s manager had moved a step closer to winning his first Champions League in 10 years. They also remain on course for a quadruple trophy haul this season. Leaving nothing to chance, Guardiola - whose decision to start Raheem Sterling on the bench was vindicated - had arranged for his side’s dressing room to be decorated with banners proclaiming “Together” and “We fight ‘til the end” along with photographs of the team celebrating past victories. Initially though these psychological props seemed to exert limited value. City started a little tentatively and were behind after 17 minutes. Haaland, who last weekend clocked up a record Bundesliga sprint time of 22.5mph, used his formidable physique to all too easily shrug off an apparently shaken John Stones as he held up the ball adroitly before Jude Bellingham’s amalgam of exquisite touch and seamless control sent it arcing towards the top corner. Now, the Germans were suddenly on course to progress through away goals. City’s response to that goal was impressive though, with Gündogan coming to the fore and Guardiola’s side suddenly dominating possession as they swarmed all over their hosts. Yet even though De Bruyne, deployed as a false nine, hit the bar and Bellingham cleared Mahrez’s shot off the line in the wake of Foden performing acrobatic



▲ Pep Guardiola and Kyle Walker congratulate Phil Foden on his goal

England forward’s late goal in the 2-1 first-leg win at the Etihad Stadium last week. The manager said: “He’s always creating something - two important goals and he has helped us in the semi-final - in this quarter-final he was the most important player. It is the second time in the semi-finals so it is not history in the club, but we start to build it. “We were brilliant except the first minutes where they were good. I’m incredibly happy to be in the semi-finals, to be one of the best four teams in Europe, to be against big, strong teams and we will try to be good. We break this bridge from quarter-finals to semi-finals.” The last comment referred to City being eliminated at the last-eight stage for the past three seasons under Guardiola, his team having failed to progress beyond in the last 16 in his

wonders to pluck the ball from thin air, Dortmund’s supremely efficient back four briefly elevated the art of defensive organisation to new heights. It meant Guardiola’s players created precious little from open play and with De Bruyne’s set-piece delivery radar turning uncharacteristically wonky for a while, City’s manager had reason to fear the worst.

Or at least he did until Emre Can headed a cross on to his left arm and Mahrez’s left-footed penalty proved too powerful for Marwin Hitz to resist, restored the aggregate lead. By the time a short corner routine had prefaced Foden’s low, angled shot flying in off Hitz’s hands and the near post, the narrative had not so much changed as been torn to shreds. As Hitz, who knew he should have saved it, berated himself, Foden raced to embrace Guardiola in what would swiftly become the most emotional of group hugs. That “Together” banner in the away locker room was evidently much more than an empty slogan.

When City’s manager finally emerged from the scrum, his high-wattage smile looked strong enough to power the factories of North-Rhine Westphalia for several weeks. Guardiola has said he will regard himself as “a failure” if he does not deliver the Champions League trophy to the Etihad Stadium and the relief was palpable as the final whistle blew and he commiserated with Dortmund’s interim manager Edwin Terzic. Before kick-off Terzic reflected that whoever won the tie would need to find “the balance between courage and patience.” Happily for Guardiola, Gündogan and company eventually discovered precisely how to locate that winning equilibrium.

first term in charge. Yet after Jude Bellingham’s 15th-minute opener had Dortmund going through on away goals City responded via a second-half Riyad Mahrez penalty and Foden’s shot from outside the penalty area that struck the post before going over the line. City next meet Paris Saint-Germain after the French club defeated Bayern Munich on Tuesday. “@Kmbappe are you ready,” Foden tweeted to the France striker. “The semi-final of the Champions League - we cannot expect anything but tough,” Guardiola said. Of a potential quadruple the City manager said: “We need three wins for the Premier League, we are in the semi-finals of the Champions League, semi-finals of the FA Cup and the final of Carabao Cup. We don’t talk about winning all four - we take one game at a time.”

Kudela's racist
abuse towards
Kamara results
in 10-game ban

Jamie Gardner

Slavia Prague’s Ondrej Kudela has been banned for 10 matches by Uefa after being found guilty of racist behaviour towards Rangers’ Glen Kamara at Ibrox in the Europa League last month. A one-match provisional suspension given to Kudela last week was included in the sanction, European football’s governing body said. Uefa also banned Kamara for three matches after finding he assaulted Kudela in the tunnel after the game. Rangers intend to appeal against Kamara’s suspension, which they described as “severe”. Kamara was incensed after Kudela whispered into his ear during the match on 18 March. Kudela denied racism. Kamara’s account was supported by his teammate Bongani Zungu and Uefa’s control, ethics and disciplinary body has found Kudela guilty of using racist language. The Uefa body’s full written reasons will be published at a later stage, and both sanctions are open to appeal. Kudela’s ban rules him out of representative team competition matches, meaning he will miss Czech Republic games at Euro 2020. Kamara’s ban covers only Uefa club competitions, leaving him eligible to represent Finland at the finals.

Kudela said, via his lawyers, that he was “startled” by the ruling, because the investigator did not gather any convincing evidence of his alleged racism. Slavia chairman Jaroslav Tvrdik, who side host Arsenal in their Europa League quarter-final second leg tonight after a 1-1 draw in the first leg at the Emirates Stadium, said in a statement: “We respect the decision. In any case, Ondrej Kudela should not have approached the opposition player. I deeply regret that and apologise to Glen Kamara. I am taking positive steps to prevent such a situation from happening in our club ever again.” Kamara’s lawyer, Aamer Anwar, said the 10-game ban for Kudela - the minimum sanction for a racist offence - “made a mockery” of Uefa’s claims to take racism seriously and that it had “disappointed” his client. Anwar said he had wanted a “minimum year-long ban”. Show Racism the Red Card described Uefa’s sanction as “wildly insufficient”. PA Media



▲ Rangers will appeal a three-game ban given to Glen Kamara (left)

Results			
Football			
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE			
Quarter-finals: Second leg			
Borussia Dortmund (1) 1 Bellingham 15 (agg 2-4)	(1) 1 Manchester City Mahrez 55pen Foden 75	(0) 2	
Liverpool (0) 0 (agg 1-3)	Real Madrid (0) 0	(0) 0	
Tennis			
WTA MUSK HEALTH OPEN (Charleston, S Carolin, USA)			
First round: O Jabeur (Tun) bt S Voegelé (Swi) 6-4 6-1; A Parks (US) bt G Min (US) 6-1 6-4; F Di Lorenzo (US) bt K Ahn (US) 7-6 (8-6) 6-2; C Liu (US) bt S Sanders (Aus) 7-5 4-6 6-0; D Kovinic (Mne) bt V Tomova (Bul) 6-3 6-3; A Sharma (Aus) bt Wang Y (Chn) 6-4 4-2; E Navarro (US) bt T Martincova (Cz) 6-3 3-2 ret; L Fruhvirtova (Cz) bt A Cornet (Fr) 6-2 6-7 (7-9) 4-4 ret; C McHale (US) bt S Errani (It) 7-6 (7-3) 6-3; M Osorio Serrano (Col) bt M Linette (Pol) 6-3 4-6 7-5			
ATP MONTE CARLO MASTERS (Monaco)			
Second round: D Evans (GB) bt H Hurkacz (Pol) 6-4 6-1; L Pouille (Fr) bt A Popyrin (Aus) 7-5 2-6 6-3; C Ruud (Nor) bt D Schwartzman (Arg) 6-3 6-3; F Krajinovic (Ser) bt JI Londero (Arg) 6-0 6-3; R Bautista Agut (Sp) bt T Paul (US) 6-3 6-4; A Rublev (Rus) bt S Caruso (It) 6-3 6-2; R Nadal (Sp) bt F Delbonis (Arg) 6-1 6-2; G Dimitrov (Bul) bt J Chardy (Fr) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4; A Zverev (Ger) bt L Sonogo (It) 6-3 6-3; F Fognini (It) bt J Thompson (Aus) 6-3 6-3; C Garin (Chl) bt J Millman (Aus) 6-1 6-4; D Goffin (Bel) bt M Cecchinato (It) 6-4 6-0; P Carreño Busta (Sp) bt K Khachanov (Rus) 6-2 6-3; N Djokovic (Ser) bt J Sinner (It) 6-4 6-2			
Cricket			
THIRD TWENTY20 INTERNATIONAL			
Centurion South Africa 203-5 (AK Markram 63, JN Malan 55). Pakistan 205-1 (Babar Azam 122, Mohammad Rizwan 73 no). Pakistan beat South Africa by nine wickets.			
Cycling			
PRESIDENTIAL CYCLING TOUR OF TURKEY (Turkey)			
Stage four (Alanya - Kemer, 184.4km): 1 M Cavendish (GB) Deceuninck-QuickStep 4hr 9min 38sec; 2 J Philipsen (Bel) Alpecin-Fenix; 3 S Aniolkowski (Pol) Bingoal WB all at same time. Selected others: 125 A Richardson (GB) Alpecin-Fenix at same time.			

General classification: 1 M Cavendish (GB) Deceuninck-QuickStep 14hr 12min 42sec; 2 J Philipsen (Bel) Alpecin-Fenix at 12sec; 3 A de Kleijn (Neth) Rally Cycling at 20sec. Selected others: 117 A Dowsett (GB) Israel Start-up Nation at 30sec.	
TOUR OF VALENCIA (Spain)	
Stage one (Elche - Ondara, 159.5km): 1 M Scotson (Aus) Groupama-FDJ 4hr 14min 57sec; 2 J Degenkolb (Ger) Lotto Soudal at 29sec; 3 A Riou (Fr) Arkea at same time. Selected others: 58 P Double (GB) Mg.k Vis VPM at 01min 39sec.	
General classification: 1 M Scotson (Aus) Groupama-FDJ 4hr 15min 47sec; 2 J Degenkolb (Ger) Lotto Soudal at 33sec; 3 A Riou (Fr) Team Arkea-Samsic at 35sec. Selected others: 58 P Double (GB) Mg.k Vis VPM at 01min 49sec.	
Basketball	
NBA	
Minnesota 97 Brooklyn Nets 127; Indiana 115 LA Clippers 126; Toronto 103 Atlanta 108; Charlotte 93 LA Lakers 101; Utah 106 Oklahoma 96; Phoenix 106 Miami 86; Portland 115 Boston 116	
Baseball	
MLB	
Minnesota 2 Boston 4; Arizona 5 Oakland 7; Baltimore 3 Seattle 4 (8 Innings); New York Mets 4 Philadelphia 3; Pittsburgh 8 San Diego 4; Baltimore 7 Seattle 6; Toronto 7 New York Yankees 3; Tampa Bay 3 Texas 8; Atlanta 8 Miami 14; Milwaukee 2 Chicago Cubs 3; St. Louis 14 Washington 3; New York Mets 4 Philadelphia 0 (8 Innings); Houston 2 Detroit 8; Chicago White Sox 0 Cleveland 2 (10 Innings); Kansas City 3 Los Angeles Angels 2; San Francisco 7 Cincinnati 6; Los Angeles Dodgers 7 Colorado 0	
Fixtures	
Football (8pm unless stated)	
Uefa Europa League	
Quarter-finals: Second leg Manchester United v Granada (agg 2-0); Roma v Ajax (agg 2-1); Slavia Prague v Arsenal (agg 1-1); Villarreal v Dinamo Zagreb (agg 1-0)	
Sky Bet Championship	
Rotherham United v Coventry City (7pm)	
Scottish League One	
Clyde v Dumbarton (7pm); Partick Thistle v Montrose (7pm)	
Scottish League Two	
Stranraer v Stenhousemuir (7pm)	
Rugby league	
Betfred Super League	
Leeds Rhinos v Wigan Warriors (7.45pm)	
Cricket (11am unless stated)	
LV= Insurance County Championship (first day of four)	
Group One	
Riverside Durham v Derbyshire; Edgbaston Warks v Essex; New Road Worcestershire v Notts. Group Two	
Ageas Bowl Hampshire v Gloucestershire; Grace Road Leicestershire v Somerset; Lord's Middlesex v Surrey. Group Three	
Canterbury Kent v Lancashire; Northampton Northants v Glamorgan; Hove Sussex v Yorkshire.	

Georginio Wijnaldum (right) blazes a shot over the bar as Liverpool pile the pressure on Real Madrid

JAVIER GARCIA/BPI/SHUTTERSTOCK



Courtois keeps door firmly closed and Real crush Liverpool hopes

Liverpool	0
Real Madrid	0
Real Madrid win 3-1 on agg	
Possession	
Liverpool 56%	Real Madrid 44%
Shots on target	
4	2
Total attempts	
15	6
Andy Hunter	
Anfield	

Ultimately the Anfield factor was not the vital missing ingredient from Liverpool's attempted rescue mission against Real Madrid. It was the finish.

Jürgen Klopp's side performed with the energy of 55,000 fans seemingly behind them but a wasteful night in front of Thibaut Courtois's goal enabled the Spanish champions to escape the punishment that has befallen many

before them. Liverpool's dream of another Champions League triumph in Istanbul is over.

A goalless draw was sufficient to take Zinedine Zidane's team into a semi-final meeting with Chelsea and, in fairness, Madrid's clean sheet owed plenty to the alertness of the former Chelsea goalkeeper and the resilience of a makeshift defence that improved as the contest wore on. The visitors, raiding almost at will on the counterattack in the closing stages, also lacked a clinical touch. But Liverpool will legitimately ponder what might have been as they digest a trying and now trophy-less campaign.

The Premier League champions had ample opportunity to have added Madrid's scalp to the list of stirring European comebacks at Anfield. Courtois made impressive stops, Éder Militão important blocks, but Liverpool's inability to turn the tie was primarily down to their own failings in the Madrid penalty area.

Over 180 minutes Zidane's men defended better and finished better

when on home soil. Liverpool can take solace from their vast improvement on the first leg but can have no complaints over their exit. Their season, and participation in next year's Champions League, now hinges on securing a top four finish.

In terms of intensity, a blistering opening and fighting until the end, Liverpool answered Klopp's pre-match call to show "our best selves" against Madrid. There had been a sombre start to proceedings with a minute's silence for the 96 Liverpool fans who were unlawfully killed at Hillsborough on the eve of the 32nd anniversary of the disaster. A window on the Madrid team coach was smashed as it approached the stadium. Allegedly by a bottle. Certainly by an idiot.

From the moment referee Björn Kuipers got the second leg under way, however, the sterile atmosphere was forgotten as an absorbing European tie took shape.

Liverpool launched themselves into the game. But for the legs and fingertips of Courtois, they would

have had the 2-0 lead required after only 11 minutes.

Their first and ultimately best chance arrived in the second minute when Ozan Kabak prised open a Madrid defence with a hopeful ball

Semi-finals

PSG v Man City Real Madrid v Chelsea

First legs 27/28 April
Second legs 4/5 May **Final** 29 May



▲ One of the windows on the Real Madrid team coach was damaged on the way to Anfield

over the top. Sadio Mané, racing in behind Militão, squared inside to the unmarked Mohamed Salah. Liverpool's leading goalscorer struck first time but too close to the Courtois, who blocked with his left leg.

As in the first leg, Klopp again omitted Thiago Alcântara from his starting lineup only this time chose James Milner to replace the midfielder instead of Naby Keïta. The veteran's brief may have been to destruct, and he left an early mark on Karim Benzema and Luka Modric, but he almost produced a stunning goal after Salah and Roberto Firmino combined to find him in space. Milner curled a precision finish towards the top corner from 25 yards but Courtois, flinging to his left, was equal to the effort with a superb fingertip save.

Madrid's quality in the final third could not be stifled completely, of course. Benzema almost plundered an away goal when he spun away from Nathaniel Phillips, who had a fine game, and darted across Kabak into the area. A deflection off Kabak's knee took the French forward's shot beyond Alisson and on to the base of the post.

Casemiro brought the entire Liverpool bench to their feet when he took retribution on Milner in front of the home dugout. The booking was inevitable without their protestations. Groans also emanated from that small section of Anfield as their team continued to create and



squander opportunities to turn the quarter-final on its head. Mané was yards away from connecting with a glorious Trent Alexander-Arnold cross to the far post. Salah blazed over after good work from Georginio Wijnaldum, who skied a glorious chance himself after Alexander-Arnold had driven his way through four static white shirts.

The pattern continued at the start of the second half with Courtois thwarting Firmino at his near post and the Brazilian heading over when found by another Alexander-Arnold right wing delivery. Madrid's threat increased as Liverpool pushed in search of a lifeline. Alisson denied Vinícius after he had been played through by a sublime cross-field ball from Federico Valverde, a surprising choice at right back. Benzema miscued a header down and over the bar when picked out unmarked by Ferland Mendy. Klopp threw on every attacking option he could find. But Liverpool could not find a way. Not this time.

Liverpool
4-3-3
Alisson; Alexander-Arnold, Phillips, Kabak (Jota 60), Robertson; Wijnaldum, Fabinho, Milner (Thiago 60); Salah, Firmino (Shaqiri 82), Mané (Oxlade-C 82)
Subs not used
Adrián, H Davies, Cain, Keita, Tsimikas, B Davies, R Williams, Clarkson

Real Madrid
4-3-3
Courtois; Valverde, Militão, Nacho, Mendy; Modric, Casemiro; Kroos (Odriozola 72); Asensio (Isco 82), Benzema, Vinicius (Rodrygo 72)
Subs not used
Lunin, Altube, Marcelo, Mariano, Park, Arribas, Chust

Referee Björn Kuipers (Neth)

Analysis

Barney Ronay

The Zidane formula: very, very good players playing at the top of their range

On a night of steadily deflating momentum, Jürgen Klopp's marauding Liverpool did their best Jürgen Klopp's marauding Liverpool impression. And for a while it was tempting to believe.

Anfield looked splendid under open blue cold skies, one of those nights when the wind comes scudding in off the sea and the place seems to boil and throb with, well, what exactly?

This time it was necessary to generate that heat from a standing start. And Liverpool did begin with that familiar precision-fury. There were deep, curving cross-field passes, back-post overloads and waspish runs from Mohamed Salah. Squint a little, drink in the startled whoops and roars of the digital crowd, and this felt almost-real.

If it turned out to be chimera this wasn't down to a lack of attacking pressure. It is of course in other areas that Liverpool's stitching has been showing these past months.

The first reality check arrived on 19 minutes. Madrid broke away, Karim Benzema seizing on Nathaniel Phillips's poor touch and grooving away from Liverpool's two centre-backs, who both appeared to be running through their own portable peat bog.

Is this a Champions League semi-final defence? Was this ever really a serious proposition at this stage? Phillips and Ozan Kabak are at least slow in different ways. Kabak is slow in the more muscular, controlled style. Phillips is gangly slow, moving into top gear with all the grace of a collapsing scaffold.

Faced with this dual pursuit Benzema turned outside, then inside, as Liverpool's central defenders windmilled like a pair of



▲ Zinedine Zidane looks on as Casemiro catches James Milner
PETER POWELL/EPA

late-right revellers on a north sea booze ferry. Nothing came of it. But it was a startling little reality check.

And from there Madrid never really had to go up through their own gears. They won this game because they have a superior defence. Never mind the star machine of the last two decades. This was about solidity, layers, and tenacious blocking and covering by a correctly staffed and brilliantly well-drilled white-shirted defence.

Zinedine Zidane? He's a cheerleader, a backslapper, a nice suit. He stands and claps. Somehow in the course of this Zidane also finds time to instruct his back five, who made 14 tackles and 11 interceptions in this game. Éder Militão produced some fine blocks.

Casemiro racked up four tackles, six clearances, two interceptions and one studied first half lunge-reducer on Liverpool's own ageing

enforcer James Milner. And from the start it was clear Casemiro had taken a look at this game and thought, yes, OK, this is my place. Watch him and he always gravitates to the right space, offering an instant sense of balance, like the bubble in a spirit level, always returning to the centre.

Still, Liverpool will see the chances to change this narrative that went begging. They had six shots in the first half. Sadio Mané and Andy Robertson hoisted eight crosses into the Madrid box. Trent Alexander-Arnold was having an excellent game. His passing and crossing from the right, often from a stationary position, is entirely his own thing, with that rare quality of simplifying the game, making it look easy. There was one languid, backspun dink into the path of Roberto Firmino that defied categorisation, a genuinely creative piece of improvisation.

Through all this there were always obstacles, a leg in the way, a body hustling close, a white-shirted

hand clamped firmly on the wrist. Did Liverpool ever really feel like they were going to score, to change the gravity in this tie? Probably. Maybe. Looking back, perhaps not.

The wider question is, does this Liverpool team really deserve to progress to the semi-finals of the Champions League? Has this club invested in its own success, been expansive in its recruitment, gambled on talent? Klopp's coaching achievements with this group of players are, in one sense, enhanced by the meltdown in midwinter. We can see the joins now. It has been a glorious run built on a squad of quality, but with no real safety net beyond.

Madrid are also missing key players. But they always had other gears here.

Towards the end Marco Asensio pulled a high dropping ball out of the sky with his big toe inside the box, then simply stopped and played a pass outside. Phillips cleared the cross, falling heroically across the near post like a collapsing set of battlements. But you got the idea. Not all footballers are created equally.

And this is the thing about Madrid. They're so unafraid, so certain of their own version of events. Time and again very, very good players perform up to the top of their range. They now face Chelsea in another semi-final - and what a monument this Madrid generation has become.

Four Champions Leagues, three league titles, six different managers - through it all those grand old meringues have eased up through the gears at the right moment, playing no obvious style or "philosophy", just a kind of Madrid-ball: high quality, fearless, big personality players doing the right things at the right moments. This Madrid team was already a superpower before Liverpool's star began to rise. The same group of players, more or less, has now seen off Liverpool's own champion generation. They will not be moved.

Klopp's lament 'We didn't lose the tie here - we lost in Madrid'

Richard Jolly

Jürgen Klopp admitted it was the story of Liverpool's season as they were knocked out of the Champions League by failing to score against Real Madrid at Anfield.

The Liverpool manager felt the damage was done last week in the first leg, which his side lost 3-1, but

rued their inability to find the net at home again in a stalemate. They still only have three goals and one win at Anfield in 2021 and Klopp said: "It is a little bit ourselves this year with the finishing because we had ridiculous games here that we should have won. We know how often Mo Salah finishes these things with closed eyes. Not here.

"The performance in general was good. We played some really good stuff and had massive chances at the beginning of the game. If we had used one of them, it opens up. But you need [to take] these key moments. If and when is not interesting. We didn't score and then the experience of Real Madrid played the tie down. We didn't lose the tie tonight. We lost it in Madrid."

James Milner, who captained Liverpool, agreed. The midfielder



▲ A disconsolate Jürgen Klopp and Andy Robertson absorb the result

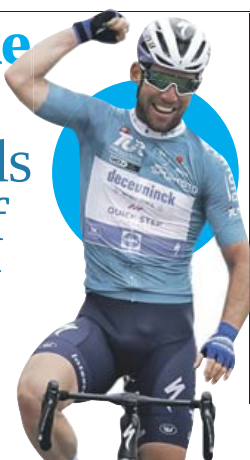
said: "If we had played that first leg with the same intensity it would have been different. Ultimately, we weren't good enough over two games. We had more than enough chances tonight."

Klopp is adamant the blow of being eliminated will not damage Liverpool's attempt to return to the Champions League. They are sixth but have won their last three league games. "It will not happen that it will impact negatively," he said. "We love this competition and for different reasons it is very important for this club.

"Now we can concentrate unfortunately on the Premier League but we will. If we want it we need to play really good football. I think we are not in a bad moment. We are not silly, we want what we earn. If we don't earn it, we don't get it. Leeds is the next challenge [on Monday]. We will have to run our socks off."

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Rejuvenated Cavendish seals rare hat-trick of wins in Turkey

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Moore's journey from delivery van to a seat in W Series

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Sport



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Phil Foden celebrates his winning goal with Kyle Walker (left) and Pep Guardiola Page 42 →	

Foden thunderbolt sends City through

Champions League quarter-finals Second legs



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Real Madrid win 3-1 on agg	
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Liverpool rue missed chances and crash out

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Seeing red... everywhere
Has an empty Old Trafford cost United at home?
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Llywodraeth y DU Cymru
UK Government Wales



COVID-19 Seeing friends again? Make Space.

COVID-19 Cwrdd â ffrindiau eto? Gwnewch le.

Does dim symptomau gan tua 1 o bob 3 o bobl sydd gyda Covid-19 ac maent yn ei ledaenu heb wybod, felly cwrdd tu allan a chadwch bellter diogel.

Gadewch i ni gymryd y cam nesaf yn ddiogel.

Around 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and are spreading it without knowing, so meet outside and keep a safe distance.

Let's take this next step safely.



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Journal



We can mourn Prince Philip, but not the monarchy

**Afua
Hirsch**



Within minutes of Prince Philip's death having been announced, I began receiving messages from friends in Ghana. "My sincere condolences for your loss," one said. "May God bless you and everyone in the UK who is grieving," said another. On a human level, acknowledging respectfully the loss that comes with death makes sense. But why did these messages describe it as *my* loss?

I am not alone in feeling that the monarchy is an institution that cannot be embraced - although even now, it is not easy to say so. If I fail to express my deference and loyalty, I will be viciously attacked by those who regard me as unpatriotic. I will be the bad Black person, the ungrateful "guest" (never mind that this is my country), the disloyal colonial subject who forgot how much Britain did for me.

The public reaction to Prince Philip's death has centred on how much he, personally, has done. By all accounts he was the most active member of the royal family, having conducted, apparently, more than 20,000 engagements, and holding more than

800 presidencies and patronages. Many young people benefited from the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme.

But these acts of public service come with strings attached. We become complicit in a toxic transaction that, in exchange for their privileges, deprives the royals of their privacy or control over their own destinies and entitles us to endless and poisonous coverage of the minutiae of their lives.

On our side of the bargain, we abandon our supposed commitment to meritocracy and equality by accepting that these human beings are born deserving of special reverence. We receive access to their charity but in return lose our freedom to challenge their authority. The royals' good deeds are not in themselves a justification for the monarchy.

The truth is that there is no escaping the haunting legacy of empire. Its ghosts have long taken possession of our royal family, turning them into emperors without colonies, bounty hoarders without raids, conquerors without wars. Instead, they are heads of a Commonwealth in which the colonised are rebranded "friends" with "a shared history". This is fantasy stuff.

As is the idea, ludicrously popular in tributes to Prince Philip, that he was some kind of frustrated comedian. We have

The Duke of Edinburgh during a royal visit to Kenya in 1983

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENSON/GETTY



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We can mourn Prince Philip, but not the monarchy

Afua Hirsch

← Continued from front

 all by now been reminded of his famous remarks: telling the Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, who was wearing national dress, “You look like you’re ready for bed”; or advising British students in China not to stay too long or they would end up with “slitty eyes”. A Black British, Cambridge-educated friend of mine received a classic Prince Philip “compliment” when she met him: “You speak English beautifully!” he said.

In the past few days we’ve heard numerous euphemisms deployed to cover these outbursts without calling them what they were. “His ‘gaffes’ were typical of the clubbish humour of the officer class.” He was “politically incorrect”, and “blunt”. Nobody likes to speak ill of the dead, but these are not excuses for Philip so much as alibis for British commentators desperate to avoid confronting the real legacy of British imperial expansion: racism. A dirty word that inconveniently undermines the glorious narrative the royals still help project. The colonisation of “lesser peoples” was by definition a project of white supremacy, and one personified by the royal family at the head of the empire: of course he made racist jokes.

If calling Prince Philip “a man of his time” is an admission that the royals exist in something of a time capsule, I have to agree. The institution is, as the experience of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex has made clear, outdated. Both Meghan’s presence and the racist press treatment to which she was subjected offered the monarchy a unique opportunity to embrace a woman of African heritage, acknowledge its complicated relationship with this heritage in the past, and at least appear committed to a new era of equality. It could not have failed the test more dramatically.

eanwhile, Britain’s honours system continues to glorify the pain felt by survivors of colonialism and their descendants. This system – which is still being actively promoted – rewards British people for their achievements on remarkable terms. It asks us to aspire to see ourselves as “Members”, “Officers” or even “Commanders” of the British Empire – a painful act of betrayal to our histories.

For those who object to projecting this painful history on to a single, recently deceased old man, this is the very problem with the concept of monarchy. Of course there is an individual analysis in which Prince Philip was a fascinating historical actor whose passing points towards the end of an era. His childhood was shaped by the Ottoman empire’s collapse. His body carried the genetic memory of the Bolshevik revolution and its fatal consequences for the Romanovs: in 1993, his DNA was used to identify their remains.

Philip’s marriage is a legacy of Queen Victoria’s project to unite Europe through dynastic marriages, based on a deep appreciation of the need for peace on the continent. It’s a virtuous ideal with much to offer the same people most noisily prostrating themselves before the Royals, if they actually cared to learn.

But our personal relationships with the monarchy cannot exist in a vacuum. Before expressing any fondness for the royals, I have to ask myself, am I subconsciously seeking the approval of the predominantly white society that rewards particular Black people for showing their allegiance? Am I threatened by the penalties for not engaging in this period of forced mourning? Many TV journalists like me are, after all, at the mercy of a governing party that has made clear its willingness to upbraid broadcasters who do not appear sufficiently patriotic.

Above all, the unspoken requirement for us to publicly celebrate the monarchy’s gains – or mourn any of its losses – demands that I internalise a history of violence and racism against my own ancestors. The instinct I still feel to apologise for not doing so is evidence of how strongly those forces still exist. So if there is a fitting tribute to the passing of Prince Philip, I believe it would be to learn, with honesty, the lessons from both his life and the reaction to his death.

The Guardian

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Russia

Kremlin sabre-rattling is meant to test Nato solidarity with Ukraine

The motive for Russia’s military buildup on the border with Ukraine is unclear, but opacity is the point. Vladimir Putin’s foreign policy is meant to defy and confound international onlookers. Ordinary Russians have nothing to gain from the Kremlin’s sending tens of thousands of soldiers, plus tanks and artillery, to menace a neighbouring state, just as they saw no material benefit in the annexation of Crimea in 2014. On the contrary, they suffered from the ensuing international sanctions.

But Mr Putin’s military adventures allow him to pose as a strongman who defies the west. Seizing territory that was once in the Soviet Union was central to the campaign to restore national pride after the loss of superpower status. That agenda is vital to a president who has little else to offer his people. Endemic corruption and bullying authoritarianism have produced economic stagnation. For want of a plan to make Russia competitive in civil spheres, the Kremlin relies on military posturing, cyber-espionage and geopolitical mischief to prove that it cannot be ignored.

That dynamic poses an immediate threat to the sovereignty of Ukraine and a recurrent challenge to its allies. Dominic Raab, the foreign secretary, yesterday met his US, French and German counterparts to discuss the escalating situation. In theory, Nato stands behind Kiev. Support is “unwavering”, according to Jens Stoltenberg, the alliance’s secretary general. Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, has described Russia’s behaviour as “very provocative”.

Amazon

Jeff Bezos won the battle in Alabama, but business is losing the image war

Goliath beats David isn’t half as good a story, but it is the usual way of the world. So last week’s news that Amazon has fended off an attempt by workers to form its first ever US trade union is unsurprising, if sad. What intrigues is the volume and variety of support that the struggle won across the US and the world, from faith leaders to the NFL players association to Republican ever-hopefuls such as Marco Rubio. In that intensity of interest lies the real surprise: the change in popular politics towards both big business and workers.

As battles go, it was always ridiculously lopsided. In one corner you had the world’s richest man sitting atop corporate America’s second-largest employer, in perhaps the most anti-union country in the rich world. Opposing him were workers and activists in Alabama, one of the most conservative of all US states, trying something never attempted before in the land of the free: to unionise an entire Amazon warehouse, those hangars full of consumer goods and crushing conditions for workers that together define our way of life. No wonder Jeff Bezos won last week, with workers at the Bessemer warehouse voting more than two to one against forming a union. That result allows Amazon to continue hiring and firing at will. It also brings to a halt perhaps the most watched union drive in the US in years. The future of industrial relations inside a giant warehouse in the Deep South became a subject of debate across Europe, so vast is Amazon’s empire. In the UK, the GMB and Unite are both looking to organise more Amazon employees.

How Mr Blinken’s boss in the White House reacts is being watched closely by the Kremlin’s provocateur-in-chief. Getting the measure of Joe Biden is not the only reason to rattle a sabre at Ukraine, but it is a significant factor. If the US flinches, it will be taken by Mr Putin as licence to extend what he sees as his “sphere of influence” in Europe – possibly by force. The Ukrainian military is better trained and equipped than it was in 2014, thanks to Nato help (and US weaponry), but that enhanced capability might not deter Russia. Fear of a domestic backlash once casualties start mounting would be a bigger constraint.

Thankfully, events have not spiralled that far, but the fact that such a turn is conceivable should be cause for the incipient crisis to command more attention in European capitals. London is hawkish in relations with Russia (especially since the Skripal poisonings), but Paris and Berlin tend to be more cautious in confronting the Kremlin. There are commercial as well as strategic issues in play – not the least of which is a pipeline project for carrying Russian gas to Germany. The European Union is not well set up for foreign policy coordination. The continent is reliant on America for its security in ways that test Washington’s patience. Donald Trump was petulant and spiteful on that point, but his frustration was not exceptional.

The wider the divisions within Nato, the more room Mr Putin sees for his trouble-making manoeuvres. And that puts Ukraine and the stability of eastern Europe in peril. There is no easy way to handle Russia when its foreign policy is conditioned by paranoid nationalism and cynical playing to a domestic audience by means of stoking international conflict. But the starting point for democracies on both sides of the Atlantic must be unequivocal solidarity with a sovereign state that has already suffered from Kremlin territorial aggression, and is threatened by it once again.

Just why the defeat was so large is a question that has prompted much soul-searching among American progressives, with some blaming poor strategic choices by the activists and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union claiming Amazon pursued “egregious and illegal” anti-union tactics, allegations that the company denies. But perhaps the fairest assessment is that from the longstanding labour writer and activist Jane McAlevey: “If the rules for unionization in the US came close to being fair, they [pro-union workers] would have won. But the rules aren’t fair. Quite the opposite: they are outrageously unfair.”

But there are two hopeful lessons that America and the rest of the world can take from this story of disappointment. First, it is now convention to argue that societies need strong unions. Last month, Joe Biden gave that message in a video address, but he is only catching up with some of his neighbours in Washington. Researchers at the International Monetary Fund have long pointed out the links between inequality and financial crises, and argued that “restoration of the lower income group’s bargaining power is more effective” than a crash in righting a giant wealth gap. In that battle between the billionaire Mr Bezos and the Alabama workers, it’s clear who those IMF researchers would have rooted for.

Second, the excitement around that Alabama ballot shows how far sentiment in the capitalist heartland is moving against big business and towards labour. Opinion polls suggest American public approval for trade unions is the highest it has been in almost 20 years, at 65%. This is not a shift in mood that has been led by Mr Biden; rather, the president is being compelled to channel it, often under the tutelage of politicians and advisers further to the left. This is a very different kind of politics than seen in the era of Barack Obama. Where it goes next will be worth watching.



The message to Scots: the union isn't based on consent now

Martin Kettle



Three weeks from now, if opinion polls are correct, the Scottish National party will win another term as Scotland's government. It will do so armed with a mandate to hold a referendum on independence. Elections, of course, retain a glorious capacity to surprise. But it is a mark of the slovenliness of Boris Johnson's government that its strategy for avoiding the breakup of the United Kingdom is now reduced to two words: fingers crossed.

It absolutely did not have to come to this point. The fact that Johnson's hope-for-the-best approach to Scottish politics reflects his slap-happy engagement with any serious statecraft may be true; but it is also true that he embodies, in his colourful way, a wider negligence that extends beyond him and that has been highlighted in two important reports this week.

These reports – from Cambridge University's Bennett Institute for Public Policy and Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government – are essential reading for grasping the policy failures that have led the UK to the threshold of breakup. Together they show a succession of bad habits in the way governments have treated the nations and regions of the UK since the modern devolution process began in 1997.

Underlying this is devolution's own original sin – the asymmetrical approach of uneven empowerment. Two crucial choices were made at the start: England was ignored and UK parliamentary sovereignty remained unchallenged. That might have been the time to recast the UK as a federal state, but that ship has sailed.

Instead, over the years, devolution problems were tackled in ad hoc ways. Entwined with this was the development, in Whitehall and Westminster, of a "devolve and forget" mindset. The Cambridge team argues that "those operating at the political centre became too disengaged from, and perhaps even complacent about" devolution's continuing implications. One author, the former civil servant Philip Rycroft, says "concern for the territorial state is not in the bloodstream of the UK state".

Looked at in that light, Johnson's lack of engagement with the UK union – his absence without leave from the crisis he has helped create in Northern Ireland

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon in her Glasgow Southside constituency last month

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

The assumption that an SNP victory makes a referendum morally unavoidable no longer applies. The implications are huge

is the most immediate example – may be part of a shared culture. Johnson and the UK state are like Dickens's Mr Micawber, always confident that something will turn up.

Although the culture of negligence may be deeply rooted, the Oxford report shows it is now far more destructive than it was a decade ago. Part of this can be explained, the report says, by David Cameron's still astonishing misjudgment after the 2014 referendum to immediately argue the case for English votes on English laws – rather than to build bridges with the 45% of Scots who had voted yes. This was compounded by the failure after 2014 to reflect on the changes in rules that might apply in future referendums on the union.

But the principal reason why the stakes are now so much higher is Brexit. It is hardly a new insight that leaving the European Union has made independence much more likely. The Oxford report, though, goes further and deeper. It argues that Brexit "laid waste to a delicate constitutional balance" which, in some readings, had existed since the Act of Union in 1707.

During those centuries, this argument runs, the relationship between England and Scotland remained one of partnership and consent. As such, it differed from the more coercive relationship with Ireland. Nevertheless, since the partial resolution of the Irish question in 1921, the union has been based on an assumption of consent between its four parts. This was still strong enough to enable Cameron to recognise that the SNP's victory in 2011 meant a referendum was morally unavoidable.

After Brexit, and under this government, that assumption no longer applies. The implications are huge. Brexit has shown the union is no longer based on consent, but on law. The law is made at Westminster, which is sovereign. England dominates Westminster.

The English majoritarian restraint that was so marked when governments were more sensitive to the need to accommodate differences is today like an abandoned house on the top of a crumbling cliff.

You can see the consequences in things like the demise of the convention that devolved powers should not be altered without the consent of devolved governments. Brexit killed that. The Internal Market Act goes even further by enhancing UK government power. This week, the UK began a supreme court challenge against two Scottish bills on the grounds that they exceed Holyrood's competence. But a decision to refuse a referendum for which Scots had voted would trump that. It would tell Scots that there was no lawful way of leaving the UK.

It may be wrong to assume the Holyrood election will usher in a full-scale conflict between London and Edinburgh on all fronts from 7 May. The SNP's awkward secret is that the time may not be right: opinion is too evenly divided. Some Conservative hawks even want Westminster to trigger an early put-up or shut-up referendum.

If there is no second referendum on Scottish independence before 2023, that would at least give time for the cooler and more consensual thinking that has been so absent for so long. But if it is not in the bloodstream, that is not very likely.



How I became a long Covid super-spreader

George Monbiot



Rejoice! We now have an explanation for long Covid, a condition that is afflicting thousands of people. A super-spreader has been identified. Important as this finding is, I'm reluctant to call for the vector to be eradicated. Why? Because it's me.

In a presentation to the reinsurance giant Swiss Re, Michael Sharpe, an Oxford University professor of psychological medicine and founder of a long-Covid clinic, proposed that one of the causes of the syndrome was "social factors" – and the factor at the top of his list was a Guardian article I wrote, on the suffering of patients with the condition.

I listed the symptoms of long Covid and compared

some of them to myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), the debilitating condition that afflicts about a quarter of a million people in the United Kingdom. Press coverage like this, Sharpe claimed, as well as the work of support groups and sympathetic doctors, could induce people to believe they had the illness, thereby spreading it.

Long Covid, he appeared to suggest, is partly a psychological condition, so "the best treatment is psychologically informed rehabilitation". This, we can only hope, will cure people of the fearful pox of Guardian journalism.

I was bemused by the fact that none of the references he gave supported these claims. So I wrote to Sharpe, asking for his sources. He told me that the evidence consisted of "patient reports", and that "we are seeing many improve with reassurance about the absence of damage and with supported rehabilitation". But assertions like this do not meet the standard of scientific evidence. Unfortunately, he was "unable to engage in further correspondence".

A scientific assessment of the use of cognitive behavioural therapy – a form of "psychological rehabilitation" that Sharpe has repeatedly championed – suggests that it's of no use in treating other post-viral syndromes, and is unlikely to "reduce disability or lead to objective improvement in long Covid".

Until now, I'd never heard of Michael Sharpe. But as I began to investigate, I stumbled into one of the most astonishing scientific stories I've ever encountered. Sharpe was one of the authors of the famous Pace trial, which was part-funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and published in 2011 in the *Lancet*. It claimed to show that cognitive behavioural therapy and graded exercise therapy were effective treatments for ME/CFC.

Patients questioned this. When they and other

researchers began exploring the methods behind the trial, they discovered some remarkable anomalies. According to an article in the *Journal of Health Psychology*, after the Pace trial began, the investigators altered assessment thresholds at which they claimed patients had improved or recovered. When the original markers were used, the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy and graded exercise therapy fell from the reported 59% and 61%, respectively, to just 20% and 21%.

A group of patients launched a five-year campaign to obtain the trial data, which should have been in the public domain. Their requests were repeatedly refused until a tribunal ordered Queen Mary University of London to release it. In 2016, the patients, with the help of academic researchers, reanalysed the data and found it did not support the Pace conclusions: there was no significant difference between the outcomes for people who received cognitive behavioural therapy and graded exercise therapy and those who did not. Their findings were published in two peer-reviewed journals.

It was a victory for citizen science. Last November, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence found the quality of the Pace trial science was "low" or "very low". As a result, it is now advising doctors not to promote cognitive behavioural or graded exercise therapy as treatments or cures for ME/CFS.

Yet in his Swiss Re presentation, Sharpe promoted the original Pace paper without explaining its findings had been undermined. He seems to have transferred his claims about treatments for ME/CFS to long Covid.

It feels to me like the entirely apocryphal story about Bono. This claims that he once announced from the stage: "Every time I clap my hands, a child in Africa dies." Whereupon someone in the audience shouted, "Well, fucking stop doing it then."

In 2019, the body of a man
dropped from a passenger
plane into a garden in south
London. Who was he?
By Sirin Kale

Out of thin air

The long read 

6 The long read

It was Sunday 30 June 2019, a balmy summer’s afternoon, and Wil, a 31-year-old software engineer, was lounging on an inflatable aired outside his house in Clapham, south-west London. He wore pyjamas and drank Polish beer. As he chatted to his housemate in the sunshine, planes on their way to Heathrow airport made their final approach overhead. On his phone, Wil showed his housemate an app that tells users the route and model of any passing plane. He tested the app on one plane, and then held his phone up again, shielding his eyes from the sun and squinting into the sky.

Then he saw something falling. “At first I thought it was a bag,” he said. “But after a few seconds it turned into quite a large object, and it was falling fast.” Maybe a piece of machinery had fallen from the landing gear, he thought, or a suitcase from the cargo hold. But then he half-remembered an article he had read years before, about people stowing away on planes. He didn’t want to believe it, but as the object got nearer and nearer, it became impossible to deny. “In the last second or two of it falling, I saw limbs,” said Wil. “I was convinced that it was a human body.”

Wil took a screenshot of the flight app notification, and his housemate called the police to give them the details: Kenya Airways flight KQ 100, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that had left Nairobi’s Jomo Kenyatta International airport eight hours and six minutes earlier, at 9.35am local time. Wil went out on his bike, hoping he would “see a bag lying on the road, praying it was just a bag or a coat or something,” he said. At one point, he found a rucksack lying in the road, and felt a surge of relief. On closer inspection, it was covered in dust. It couldn’t have fallen from the plane.

“As I went around the next road,” recalled Wil, “a police car came screaming past in the opposite direction. I thought: ‘Oh, my God. It was a human. That’s definitely what this is.’” Wil followed the police car, which led him to Offerton Road, 300 metres away from his home. A whey-faced young man – he looked to be in his 20s or early 30s – stood outside a handsome townhouse, trembling and silent. His name was John Baldock, also a software engineer, and originally from Devon. “He had a million-mile stare,” said Wil.

Wil looked through the window, into the garden. The patio was “totally destroyed”. He looked at John. “The first thing I said to him was: ‘That was a human, wasn’t it?’ And he didn’t say anything, but he just looked at me and nodded.”

Wil was right. It was a body. It – *he* – had plummeted 3,500ft, half-frozen, hitting the ground at 3.38pm. He was the man who fell from the sky. The stowaway.

The Kenya Airways stowaway case would normally have been one for the Metropolitan police’s missing person’s unit, but on the day the call came in, the team was swamped. So DS Paul Graves of the specialist crime unit volunteered. “I thought it was an interesting job,” Graves told me when we met last year in his narrow, strip-lit office at Brixton police station.

In his three-decade career, Graves had worked on stabbings, shootings, kidnappings and attempted murders. These were exacting cases, and he was well used to media scrutiny, family demanding answers, and witnesses who were reluctant to cooperate. Graves hoped to identify the fallen man and repatriate his body, but he wasn’t exactly optimistic.

When the call came in at 3.39pm, officers sped to Offerton Road, where they spoke to Wil, John and the neighbours. Police contacted Heathrow, which dispatched staff to examine the Kenya Airways plane’s wheel wells, the unpressurised area into which the plane’s landing gear retracts after takeoff. In the wheel wells, there is just about enough space for a person to crouch and evade detection. Inside, staff found a khaki rucksack with the initials MCA written on it.

The rucksack didn’t contain any significant clues: just some bread, a bottle of Fanta, a bottle of water and a pair of trainers. But there was also a small amount of Kenyan currency, and the bottle of Fanta was found to have been sold by a Kenyan shop, indicating that the stowaway had almost certainly boarded the plane there. The flight had originally come from Johannesburg to Nairobi, Graves said, so it was helpful to rule out the possibility that the stowaway had smuggled himself on to the plane in South Africa.

At Lambeth mortuary, pathologists took samples of the man’s DNA and copies of his fingerprints, and sent them to the authorities in Kenya. The results came back quickly: no match.

As Graves continued his work, reporters descended on Offerton Road. It’s not hard to see why the story drew headlines. Stories of migrants risking their lives to reach Europe were familiar news fixtures. A month earlier, a record number of boats were intercepted in the Channel on a single day, as more than 70 people were picked up by border forces. The previous year, the UN refugee agency estimated that six people died each day attempting to cross the Mediterranean. But these stories had become so familiar that they were often met with apathy. The story of the Kenyan stowaway seemed novel. Here was an anonymous man, travelling from a country where around a third of the population lives on less than \$2 a day, who had fallen thousands of feet from the underbelly of a plane into one of the wealthiest postcodes in London. “It’s in your face,” said Graves. “The meeting of worlds, at about 200mph.”

Stowing away in the wheel well of a passenger jet is a suicidally dangerous thing to do. According to the

The street in Clapham, south London, on to which the stowaway’s body fell in June 2019
DOMINIC LIPINSKI/PA

Here was an anonymous man who had fallen thousands of feet from a plane into one of the wealthiest postcodes in London



US Federal Aviation Administration, from 1947 to February 2020, 128 people around the world attempted to stow away in this manner. More than 75% of them died. At every stage, imminent death is all but assured. The stowaway may fall out of the plane as it is taking off, as happened to 14-year-old Keith Sapsford in February 1970, who fell from the wheel well of a Douglas DC-8 travelling from Sydney to Tokyo shortly after takeoff. (Astonishingly, a photographer captured the moment the schoolboy fell from the plane.) If the stowaway survives takeoff, they can be crushed by the landing gear as it retracts into the wheel well. This is how, in July 2011, 23-year-old Cuban stowaway Adonis Guerrero Barrios died above Havana after climbing on to an Airbus A340 bound for Madrid.

If the stowaway avoids being crushed, they will probably die shortly after. Within about 25 minutes of takeoff, most passenger planes reach a cruising altitude of 35,000ft feet. The temperature outside the plane is approximately -54C, although the hydraulics used to extend and retract the landing gear emit heat, raising the temperature by as much as 20C. Still, -34C is cold enough to induce fatal hypothermia. The air at cruising altitude is about 4% oxygen, about five times lower than at sea level. This shortage will lead to hypoxia, when the blood is not able to supply enough oxygen to the tissues of the body, which can cause heart attacks and brain death. The rapid decrease in air pressure during ascent can also cause decompression sickness – known to divers as the bends – in which gas bubbles form in the body, causing a variety of debilitating conditions, some of them fatal.

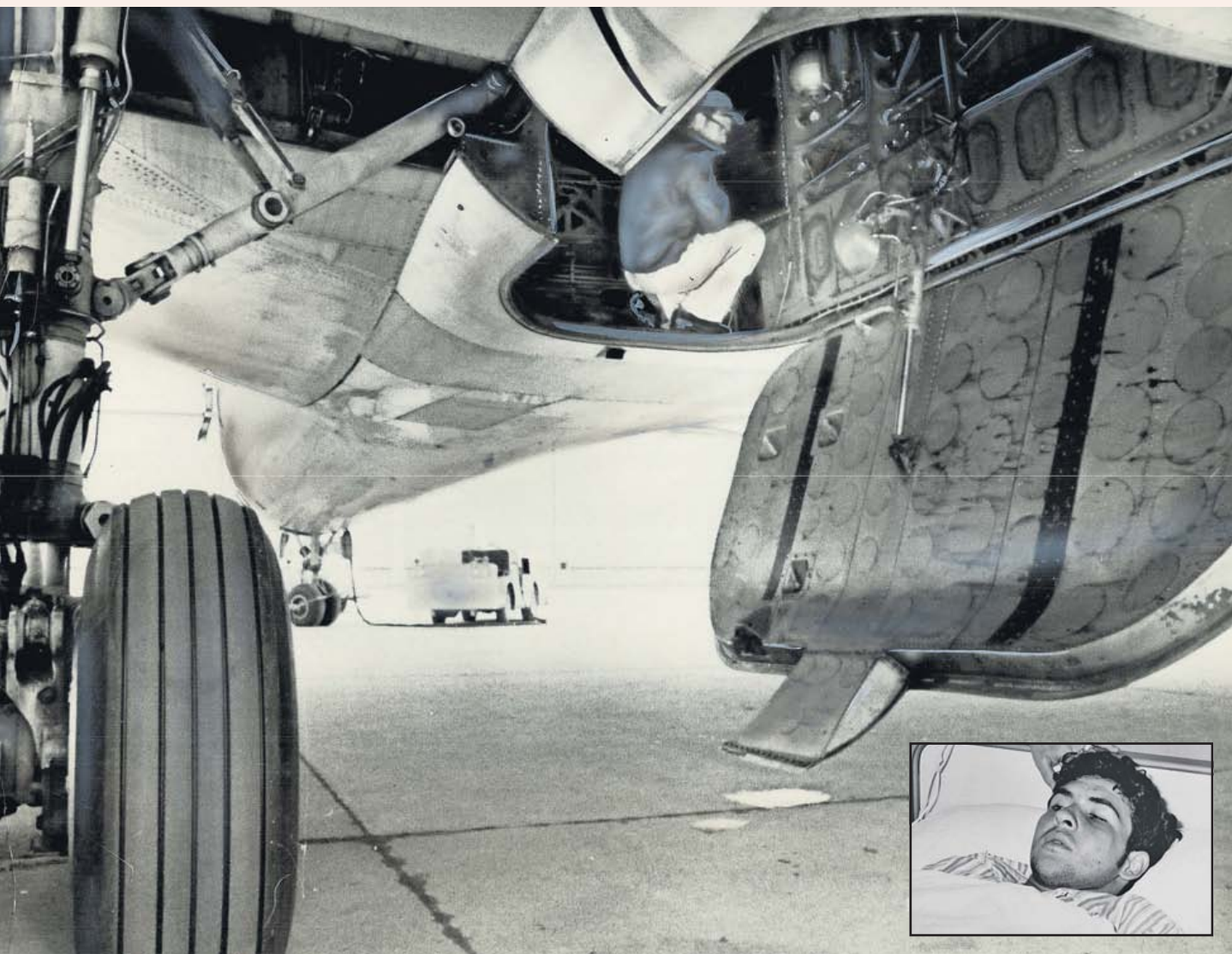
If the stowaway somehow survives the journey, they will certainly be unconscious when the plane begins its descent. So when the plane’s landing gear extends on its final approach, usually within five miles of the runway, the stowaway will probably fall from the wheel well to the ground thousands of feet below. This is why the bodies of stowaways are sometimes found in south London, under the Heathrow flight path. Mozambican Carlito Vale, who fell from a British Airways flight in June 2015, was decapitated on impact with the air conditioning unit of an office block in Richmond. Pakistan-born Mohammed Ayaz fell from a British Airways flight in June 2001 and died on impact in a Homebase car park, also in Richmond.

And yet what is truly extraordinary is that some stowaways do survive. This is something scientists have trouble explaining, not least because they cannot run experiments simulating what happens to human beings shut into wheel wells at high altitude. “Something happens that we don’t fully understand,” said Paulo Alves of the Aerospace Medical Association. Their best guess about how some stowaways cheat death? They hibernate.

Stephen Veronneau, the world’s leading expert on wheel well stowaways, outlined this theory in a 1996 paper for the Federal Aviation Administration. “The person’s core body temperature can fall to 27C [a healthy body temperature is between 36.1C and 37.2C], or even lower. When the plane lands, a gradual rewarming occurs, along with reoxygenation. If the individual is so fortunate as to avoid brain damage or death from the hypoxia and hypothermia, cardiac arrest or failure on rewarming, or severe neurovascular decompression sickness complications, some progressive recovery of consciousness occurs.”

Research on cold-water drowning cases seems to support Veronneau’s theory. In February 2011, 13 Danish teenagers and two teachers were on a boat that capsized in an icy fjord during a school trip. By the time first responders arrived on the scene 103 minutes later, seven of the teenagers were unconscious, floating in -2C water. In the two hours it took for them to be pulled from the fjord and flown to hospital, their hearts stopped beating. They had an average internal body temperature of 18.4C. They were clinically dead, said Dr Michael C Jaeger Wanscher, who treated them.

At Copenhagen’s Rigshospitalet, doctors warmed the teenagers’ blood by 1C every 10 minutes, back up to 36C. After the teenagers were rewarmed, they were transferred to the intensive care unit, where they remained deeply sedated, on ventilators, before



being gradually weaned off the machines. All seven regained consciousness. One student experienced severe physical and cognitive damage. The other six experienced mild to moderate brain damage, but were able to lead relatively normal lives, eventually returning to school. “They have studied and passed exams, but perhaps at a lower level,” Wanscher told me. “They are not precisely like they were before the accident. They feel it in themselves. They will say: ‘I don’t function like I used to before.’”

When a person is near-frozen, their oxygen and energy needs diminish, making them less susceptible to hypoxia-induced brain damage. When the person is gradually rewarmed, they reawaken, as if from a dream. “We’ve learned beyond any shadow of doubt that this is possible,” said Alves. “Some of the stowaway survivors are covered in frost, showing that they truly underwent hypothermia.”

To be frozen, and come back to life. It is fantastical. And yet, it seems to be true.

In September 2019, Graves flew to Kenya, hoping to uncover any scrap of information that might help identify the stowaway. He visited slums around the airport. He visited mortuaries, which were full of unclaimed bodies. Officials took him on a tour of Nairobi airport and gave him access to CCTV recordings. They revealed that after the plane landed from South Africa, it was taken to stand 1, where it sat for five hours, before being moved to departure gate 17, where passengers boarded the flight to London. CCTV of the departure gate and runway shows that nobody jumped on the plane as it was taking off and nobody climbed into the undercarriage while it was at gate 17. That means the stowaway almost certainly boarded the plane when it was being held at outer stand 1, where the CCTV coverage was less clear.

How had the stowaway managed to get on the plane? From a physical perspective, this wouldn’t have been

Main: how a stowaway could hide inside a wheelwell; inset: Armando Socarras Ramirez, who survived such a flight from Havana to Madrid in 1969

HAROLD BARKLEY/
TORONTO STAR/GETTY

hard. Stowaways usually make for the two rear wheel wells, because they are bigger than the front. To access the wheel well, you have to shimmy about 6ft up the landing gear – it is covered in struts, making it easy to get a foothold – and crawl into the cavity that the wheels retract into after takeoff.

The hard part would have been gaining access to the aircraft before takeoff. Security at Jomo Kenyatta International was tight. “There was no evidence of any obvious security breaches,” said Graves. “All the staff had to use passes to go through secure gates.”

Graves knew that a groundworker, baggage handler or cleaner would have access to the plane when it was being cleaned, refuelled and loaded for takeoff. “You’re looking for a low-paid, low-educated person with access to the pan,” said David Learmont, consulting editor at the aviation news website FlightGlobal. (The “pan” is a military term for the parking area when an aircraft is on the ground.) “It would be unlikely to be someone like a mechanic, because they’d know that stowing away is not a good way to get a cheap flight, because they wouldn’t get to enjoy the other end.” But Kenyan airport authorities insisted to Graves that all their employees were present and accounted for, and that police interviews had found no evidence that staff had assisted the stowaway in accessing the aircraft.

Another possibility was that the stowaway had reached the plane by breaching the outer perimeter of the airfield. In 2014, 15-year-old stowaway Yahya Abdi climbed over a fence at San Jose airport in California and stowed away on a flight to Hawaii. (Abdi survived the flight.) But again, airport officials assured Graves that the perimeter had also been secure. As with all of these claims, he had little choice but to take their word for it. (Jomo Kenyatta airport did not respond to multiple requests for comment for this article.)

The case was baffling. A man had climbed on to the plane in Nairobi. He had fallen from the sky over London. He was Kenyan. All these things were

certain or very nearly so, and yet Graves was no closer to finding his man.

Graves is not the type to be maudlin, but the case did affect him. On the flight to Kenya, there was a moment after takeoff when he heard the crunch of the wheels retracting. He turned to his colleague and winced. “We just looked at each other,” he said. It was awful to imagine a person sitting beneath them, alone, cowering in the wheel well. “In my job, you see lots of horrible things: dead bodies and smashed-up people, and you do suffer compassion fatigue, to a degree. But when I heard the noise of the wheels, I thought: oh, blimey. It felt like such a desperate thing to do.”

For Graves, the story was always bigger than how the stowaway made it on to the plane. The question was: why? “We saw the aftermath of someone falling from an aeroplane,” said Graves. “But for me, the interesting part was, where did the story start?”

Since the earliest days of aviation, there have been stowaways. People from countries including Cuba, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, the Dominican Republic and China have secretly climbed on to planes in the hope of leaving their old life behind. They abscond for all kinds of reasons: poverty, unhappiness, boredom, despair. Bas Wie, the 12-year-old who stowed away in a Douglas DC-3 from Indonesia to Australia in 1946, was an orphan who worked for food in the kitchens of Kupang airport in West Timor. Abdi, the teenager who flew in the wheel well of a Boeing 767 from California to Hawaii, said he was trying to get back to his mother in Somalia.

Every known wheel well stowaway has been male, although a Cuban woman did ship herself to the US in the hold of a cargo plane from the Bahamas in 2014. The youngest documented case involved a boy of nine, although the majority are adults under 30.

Cuba is the most common country of origin for wheel well stowaways, with nine cases since 1947. Armando Socarras Ramirez was the first. In June 1969, when he was 17, Ramirez hid in the right wheel well of a Douglas DC-8 that was due to make the eight-hour flight from Havana to Madrid. Upon landing, the pilot found Ramirez lying under the plane, covered in ice, not breathing. “The doctors in Spain called me the Popsicle!” Ramirez told me recently. He is now 69, a grandfather of 12, and lives in Virginia.

From the age of 10, Ramirez had wanted to leave Cuba. He got the idea to stow away from his friend Jorge Pérez Blanco. Together, they staked out Havana airport. “The only airline suitable was Iberia,” Ramirez said, “because the rest were going to communist countries. If we’d landed there they’d have sent us right back – maybe in the same wheel well!” The Iberia Airlines flight from Madrid landed on a Tuesday morning, refuelled, and departed on Tuesday evening.

On 3 June 1969, Ramirez and Pérez waited outside the perimeter fence. Ramirez carried a rope, a torch and cotton wool to stuff into his ears. As the plane began to taxi towards the runway, they jumped the fence. Pérez started to have second thoughts, and Ramirez half-dragged him to the plane. The engines were roaring madly. They approached from the rear.

Pérez entered the left wheel well, and Ramirez the right. The plane took off. “When the plane got up in the air,” he says, “the compartment started opening up to let the wheels come inside. I was hanging on with my fingertips to the edge of the compartment and being blown sideways by the wind.” (Pérez fell out of the plane and was found alive on the runway in Havana, and was later imprisoned.)

As the wheels came up, Ramirez got a foothold, which stopped him from falling out of the plane, but now he faced a new problem: the landing gear was crushing him. He began to hyperventilate at the memory, and had to stop for a minute to compose himself. “It was crushing me and I was pushing out and the wheel was pushing in,” he continued. Luckily, the wheels popped out again, Ramirez said, giving him time to readjust his position before the compartment shut tight.

Inside the wheel well, it was black and deafening. “You became part of the noise.





It made me shake. I put some cotton wool in my ears, but it didn’t work. When you become the noise, it’s beyond comprehension,” he said. But, wedged into the corner of the compartment, he felt overjoyed. “I was content,” he said, “because I made it.”

He leaned against the tyres, which were hot to the touch, but cooled down quickly as the temperature in the wheel well plunged. “It was very, very freezing,” he said, “and I was shivering and shaking.” He passed out, and his next memory is of waking up underneath the plane in Madrid, before he blacked out again. Paramedics were called. Staff carried him into the airport and left him on the ground, thinking he was dead. Then he came to again. “I saw people around me and the room was moving around, like I was dizzy,” he says. “Everything was moving, the walls were moving, and the lights were moving from side to side.”

Ramirez spent the next 52 days in hospital. He was an international media sensation, visited by reporters from the New York Times and Reader’s Digest. Back in Cuba, the authorities were angry. “Castro talked to my father,” claimed Ramirez. “He said: ‘I don’t have any issues with you guys. The one I want to get my hands on is your son.’ Because I embarrassed them!” At first, he was unable to hear anything, and staff had to communicate with him using a chalkboard, but after a month, his hearing returned. Incredibly, he says he has suffered no long-term health consequences. “My blood pressure is normal, my heartbeat is normal,” he said. He worked as a firefighter for 11 years.

Ramirez believes divine intervention saved his life. “God put his hand on me,” he said. He has only one regret. “After me, in Cuba, a lot of youngsters tried to do what I did,” he said, “and most of them died.”

When Graves had exhausted all his leads in Kenya, there was only one thing left to do: make his findings available to the media, in the hope of reviving the story and triggering someone’s memory. “People probably think that the police go out and search for clues,” he said. “But what we rely on really is the public, and witnesses seeing things and telling us.”

But the idea of more media attention did not go down well with his counterparts in Kenya, Graves said. It is not hard to see why. For the people who run airports, stowaways are embarrassing, dangerous and often expensive. After San Jose’s perimeter was breached, the airport spent \$15.4m upgrading 10,000ft of fencing. And for governments, these incidents are bad news, prompting people around the world to wonder why their citizens might be so desperate to leave the country that they would take such extraordinary risks. In July 2013, a 32-year-old Turkish man named Hikmet Komur died after stowing away in the wheel well of a British Airways flight from Istanbul to London. In the days after the incident, Komur’s family were visited by Turkish police and told not to push for more information on how he had accessed the plane. “They told my other uncle not to drag out the situation,” Komur’s niece Fatos, a student from London, told me. “They said to drop it.”

For Kenyan authorities, there may have been an additional concern. In 2017, Jomo Kenyatta International airport received a category 1 security classification, permitting direct flights to the US. “There is a general feeling among police that, if the stowaway was shown to be someone who originated from Kenya, the airport security rating would be dropped,” said Kenyan journalist Hillary Orinde, who works for Agence France-Presse. “Every police officer I’ve spoken to has been cagey, for that reason.”

Graves did manage to persuade Kenyan police to circulate information about the case through their police gazette, hoping to encourage regional officers to make inquiries. On his return to the UK in October, he disseminated an e-fit of the stowaway’s face alongside a photograph of his meagre possessions. The accompanying press release made reference to the initials written on the stowaway’s rucksack: MCA.

Reporters seized on this new information, and on 12 November, Sky news published the results of an investigation in which they claimed to have identified the stowaway as Paul Manyasi, who had been 29 and



‘You do get compassion fatigue. But when I heard the noise of the wheels, I thought: oh blimey. It felt such a desperate thing to do’

worked as a cleaner at the airport. Manyasi’s girlfriend, who was given the pseudonym “Irene”, told Sky the initials on the rucksack stood for “member of county assembly”, claiming this was Manyasi’s nickname. His mother claimed to recognise his underpants.

Willy Lusige, a journalist for the Kenyan TV network KTN News, was stunned. Like many Kenyan journalists, he had followed the story closely and attempted to identify the stowaway himself, but got nowhere with the airport authorities or police. He had trouble believing the case had truly been solved. Orinde also had misgivings. “His mother said she hadn’t spoken to him for a number of years,” Orinde said, “but she was able to identify his underpants?”

Both men began to dig into the Sky investigation. When Lusige found the family of the man Sky had identified as Paul Manyasi, he knew that something was wrong. “I expected because they had been told their family member was dead that there would be a sombre mood,” he says, “but when I went there it was just a normal day.” The father told Lusige that some white people came to visit the family and gave them \$200. “Money had changed hands, and an illiterate father was convinced to go on record and say that his son was the stowaway,” said Lusige.

The Sky investigation quickly disintegrated. There was no record of a Paul Manyasi ever having worked at Jomo Kenyatta airport. Nor did the parents who Sky had spoken to have a son named Paul Manyasi. Their son was called Cedric Shivonje Isaac. Finally, there was the fact that Isaac was not dead, but alive, in prison in Nairobi. “When foreign journalists come and do a story in Kenya,” Orinde said, “people open up, because they think that people around them will not see the story. They don’t imagine anyone at home is going to check to see if what was reported was true.” On 22 November, Sky retracted the article, and published an apology.

Orinde remains perplexed by the case. “Kenya doesn’t have such a culture of people desperately trying to get to the west by any means possible,” he said. Kenya is relatively wealthy compared to many other countries in the region, with the sixth-largest economy in Africa.

By the end of 2019, Kenyan officials had wrapped up their investigation, and no breach had been found at

Kenya Airways planes at Jomo Kenyatta airport in Nairobi
REUTERS/NJERI MWANGI

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Sirin Kale
is a regular contributor to The long read

Jomo Kenyatta International. It retained its category 1 status. Then, more than a year later, something strange happened. On 4 February 2021, a Turkish Airlines Airbus A330 freighter landed at Maastricht. Above the main landing gear was a 16-year-old Kenyan boy. The plane had originated from Jomo Kenyatta airport on 3 February, making stops in Istanbul and London, before landing in the Netherlands. Miraculously, the boy was alive, and apparently unharmed. He was discharged from hospital after one day.

In a statement, the teenager told investigators that he walked on to the plane and fell asleep, and that his motive for leaving Kenya was to seek a better life. He is now seeking asylum in the Netherlands. Jomo Kenyatta airport authorities have not acknowledged the incident, or explained how a stowaway was able to breach their security protocols once again. Flights from the airport continue to land in the UK.

We still do not know the identity of the man who fell to earth on 30 June 2019. All we know – or think we know – are the last things he would have seen and heard. The grunt and hiss of hydraulics inside the wheel well, as flight KQ 100 waited on the runway in Nairobi. The clattering footsteps on metal stairs as passengers boarded the plane. The thud of suitcases being thrown into the hold. The plane pulling away from the stand, pivoting and taxiing towards the runway. White markings flashing beneath his feet. A pause, and then the drone of Rolls-Royce engines attacking asphalt at 180mph. The aeroplane picking up speed, the noise intensifying into the pneumatic whine of a thousand dentist’s drills. Lift-off. A whip of wind, an icy chill, and up to 10,000ft, 20,000ft, 35,000ft. Colder and colder. Unconsciousness. Oblivion.

He was buried in Lambeth cemetery on 26 February 2020. It was a beautiful morning, crisp and clear, and freezing cold. I hopped from foot to foot to stay warm, my fingers trembling as I fastened the buttons on my coat. Around me, four workers from Lambeth council, in green coveralls and mud-clogged boots, waited to see if any mourners would arrive. Beside them a man waited with a digger, ready to fill in the earth.

The council workers talked among themselves about the stowaway’s death. “Considering he fell quite far,” one remarked, “he was in reasonably good condition.”

“A poor person was sunbathing, weren’t they?” said the gravedigger. “Thump!”

By now, I was shaking from the cold. As they prepared to lower the body into the ground, a solitary mourner panted into view. An official from the Kenyan embassy, dressed in a black suit and leather shoes, barely making it in time. He had the harried air of a man with many obligations and better things to be getting on with. We nodded at each other, and then the workmen stepped forward. The mood switched from cheerful banter to sombre efficiency. They lowered the coffin into the ground, and inclined their heads for a few seconds. On the coffin was a metal plaque, reading: “Unknown (Male), Died 30th June 2019, Aged 30.”

The horror of the Kenya Airways stowaway’s death made for newspaper headlines, but many more migrants die, in equally horrific circumstances, every week. They are locked in the back of lorries and asphyxiate, or fall from moving freight trains, or drown in the Channel. They are shot by border patrol guards through chain link fences, or electrocuted in the Channel tunnel, or beaten to death by racist mobs. They are held in detention centres for years, where they are subject to physical and sexual abuse. Sometimes, they burn themselves alive, out of despair. Since 2014, 10,134 people have died on global migration routes, according to the Missing Migrants project. These figures are likely only a tiny fraction of the true picture.

When the body was in the ground, the embassy worker spun on his heels and hurried away. I looked at the grave. A nameless man lay before me in a little plot of south-west London, in an unmarked grave, identifiable only by a simple wooden cross and a numeric code. There are so many people like him. They keep quiet counsel in unvisited graves, and their stories vanish with them. ●

Established 1906

Country diary
*St Dominic,
Tamar valley*

The inexorable tide of verdure flashes alongside the A388 and Expressway, skirting Plymouth, as I make one of my regular trips to Derriford hospital. The haze of fresh hawthorn, pale yellow fluffiness of pussy willow catkins, and abundant white blossom on blackthorn are luminous, still unsullied by traffic fumes.

After treatment from caring, gentle professionals, against a background of companionable chat among patients, the journey home is slower. The verges come into focus showing swathes of primrose, brassy celandine, salt-loving scurvy grass and umbels of alexanders, interspersed with ubiquitous litter; a lone magpie, beneath the suburbs at King’s Tamerton, flies towards a fringe of woodland where oaks break into leaf.

Off the main road I relax, like a cat in a box, homeward from the vet, sensing the details of familiar terrain. Beyond the farm shop that sells home-produced beef and pork, rooks flap about their nests in the beeches by the church tower and glebe land. The spring sunlight casts a tracery of tree shadows across the way above wooded Radland valley. There, returned blackcaps chortle, invisible among the thickest scrub; neglected plots of *Narcissus poeticus* species (pheasant’s eye) like *Ornatus* and *Horace* are in full flower. In Sullen’s Wood, another derelict market-garden, moschatel (townhall clock) colonises patches of bare ground between emerging ferns, all strewn with rotten ash twigs.

On the adjacent hedgebank among the seeded pennywort, hart’s tongue remains tightly furled, and uncurling fronds of soft shield appear as scaly fiddle-heads. Opposite the gate that points home, the “Blizzard” Burcombe cherry tree is already in flower, grafted almost 40 years ago from a tree that survived the great blizzard of 1891. Chiffchaffs dominate the birdsong and two swallows, seen twittering on a high up branch, have prospected last year’s nest in the barn.

Across the valley, 30 south Devon yearlings have been turned out for a second season of summer grazing before eventual dispatch to the abattoir.

Virginia Spiers

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Forget Corbynism and give Starmer a chance

Owen Jones is right to assert that Keir Starmer needs a coherent vision (If Labour loses in Hartlepool, will Starmer have a future?, Journal, 13 April), but he cannot seriously be suggesting that Labour returns to the Corbyn era, which oversaw its worst election defeat in living memory.

It is the cruellest time to be an opposition leader - the country faces its biggest challenge since the second world war and despite its corruption, lies and deceit, we all need the current government to succeed. To be elected, Labour will need to set out a fair, egalitarian and compassionate alternative that resounds with the hopes and ambitions of ordinary people. Neither Jeremy Corbyn, nor the wider Momentum movement have a monopoly on socialism. Starmer and his frontbench, which represents a range of Labour traditions, need to start shaping their vision, but suggesting that a loss in Hartlepool will be a deciding factor is overly simplistic. Labour only won the seat because of a split in the rightwing vote.

Corbyn and his fellow travellers led Labour down a path of

unelectability, ensuring a safe Conservative majority that will inflict years of hardship on those who can least afford it. Starmer’s Labour must come up with a coherent vision, but it needs to relate to what Britain needs today.

Warren Brown
Ilkley, West Yorkshire

● I’ve been working for Labour since the 1960s, but I don’t think I’ve ever felt so despondent. In Keir Starmer’s early days of PMQs his skills as a defence lawyer were useful, but Boris Johnson soon learned to sidestep his questions.

After a year of leading the party, there should be some idea of what Starmer wants apart from tackling injustice and inequality, and the need for social ownership. All of those are policy ideas expected from any Labour leader. What is needed is a vision that meets the challenges of this century so that young people become inspired.

Roosevelt’s New Deal met the challenges of the 1930s, and now the US has Joe Biden’s exciting programme. In 1945, voters were excited by Labour’s manifesto promising the welfare state. Starmer

needs to present a vision that meets the challenge of climate warming. We need an end to homelessness; an end to the need for food banks; a properly funded NHS; a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work and an end to zero-hours contracts.

We don’t need more Tory public school buffoonery, and no more feeble excuses from any party. It is time for action.

Martin Pask
York

● Rather than being angry about the scapegoating of the Labour left, Owen Jones should be thinking about those who will be fighting for the crumbs from the rich man’s table that passes for “levelling up” under the Tories. There is a terrible arrogance on the left about the moral rightness of their cause that has lost sight of the fact that the electorate didn’t buy their vision at the last election - big time. Why not give Keir Starmer, who did well in the polls for much of last year and is an excellent contrast to our Churchill tribute act PM, a chance?

By all means let the left look for the charismatic, baggage-free figure blessed with the ability to make a bold leftwing agenda attractive, but while they do, they could greatly benefit the Labour party - and thus poor people - by stopping the constant bickering and presenting a united front.

Juliet Hills
Lincoln

Prince Philip was a champion of design

Your obituary, editorial and other pages devoted to the Duke of Edinburgh (10 April) omitted his passionate support of design, invention and engineering.

From working as a young engineer in London in the 1960s and seeing the Prince Philip designer’s prize (1959-2011) displayed at the Design Council’s showroom on Haymarket, to his impassioned BBC Radio 4 Today programme statement in 2016 that “everything that wasn’t invented by God is invented by an engineer”, I have seen him consistently champion these crucial parts of our economy. Indeed, he has been followed by other members of the royal family, which I can say, as a beneficiary of a BBC Tomorrow’s World Prince of Wales award for innovation in 1990, greatly helps international licensing of our inventions.

While Harold Wilson was a great advocate of “the white heat of technology”, the need for practical inventions to improve society and the importance of good design have not had better promotion by any public figure than the Duke of Edinburgh over his lifetime.

Roland Hill
Chairman, Contra Vision Ltd

Corrections and clarifications

- An article about Covid vaccinations said: “Israel and Chile have made great progress, but as the latter edges back to a ‘new normal’, the former has been plunged back into lockdown.” The outcomes are the other way around: Chile is back in lockdown and Israel is moving towards pre-pandemic life (Israel and Chile: why two such different outcomes?, 7 April, page 11).
- Due to a production error, the film *Palm Springs* was given a three-star review, when it should have been four (9 April, page 8, G2).

Editorial complaints and corrections can be sent to guardian.readers@theguardian.com or The readers’ editor, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU

Renaming wickets has me stumped

Boris Johnson may be adamant that he will not permit a Scottish independence referendum (PM would not block second referendum in Scotland - Sturgeon, 12 April), but the Scottish Conservatives are urging voters to support them, to prevent an SNP majority in the Scottish parliament and a referendum. Does this indicate that even his own party activists don’t take Johnson’s words seriously?

Alison McIntosh
Dundee

● As the marketers of the latest incarnation of cricket seek to change the outdated word “wicket” to “out” (Report, 14 April), why not increase accessibility still further by changing “runs” to “hits” and the whole sport’s name to “stick ball”?

Martin Datta
Lincoln

● Friends reunited through Guardian letters indeed (Letters, 13 April)! My wife had a letter published recently. A work colleague and friend, whom we had been able to help over 40 years ago, did some detective work and was able to get in touch to offer, again, her thanks. So lovely to hear from her. All due to the letters page.

Tom Yeo
Enfield, London

● We need a roadmap with specific dates with respect to moving back to two pages of letters, and then a discussion about what a new normal letters page might look like.

Keith Flett
Tottenham, London

● “Brain fog: How the pandemic year has affected our minds and memories” (G2, 14 April). And there was I thinking it was due to old age.

Cathleen Palmer
St Albans, Hertfordshire



Bernie Madoff

Financier who conned investors around the world out of billions of dollars through a massive Ponzi scheme

When, in 2008, Bernie Madoff was revealed as the world's biggest ever conman, the general reaction was: "Bernie who?" Outside Wall Street, he was almost unknown. But investors around the world, most of whom had never heard the name Madoff, soon discovered they were victims of his \$65bn Ponzi - or circular money - scheme.

An undiscerning fraudster, Madoff, who has died in prison aged 82, conned relatives, close friends, longstanding clients and charities as well as supposedly savvy banks and fund managers. There was no advertising. It was all by word of mouth: personal recommendations from well-rewarded Madoff middlemen at country clubs, golf courses and

marinas. The pitch was exclusivity. The fund was closed - but maybe he would let you in.

Madoff's tactics typified the classic affinity fraud. A community becomes a collective victim through trust for one of their own and reliance on the judgment of social or business peers. There was no need to question how he always beat the stock market. He was, after all, "Uncle Bernie", their kindly, polite, quiet, almost boring benefactor. Regular returns of 1% or more a month made Madoff the secure "Jewish T-Bill", said one investor, comparing him to the safe-as-houses US Treasury bills. Photographs showed a soft-eyed, unthreatening figure. One victim concluded he had been "a friend to a man who apparently didn't exist".

A staggering \$170bn had flowed through Madoff's hands. Some 4,800 investors lost more than \$21bn - the difference between what they put in and got back. Less than \$1bn was left. The cash had

Madoff at his firm's office in New York in 1999 and, below right, leaving a federal court in 2009 after his hearing on charges of running a Ponzi scheme

RUBY WASHINGTON/
NEW YORK TIMES/
REDUX

not bought investments, but was recycled back as phony profits.

Nothing about Madoff was remarkable - beyond the scale of his fraud. He was born in New York. His parents, Sylvia (nee Muntner) and Ralph, immigrants from eastern Europe, worked in stockbroking, although his mother ceased business under pressure from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulator in 1963. Madoff graduated from Hofstra University and worked as a sprinkler salesman before starting Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities (BLMIS) in 1960 with \$5,000 in savings and backing from his father-in-law, Saul Alpern. He had married Ruth Alpern the previous year.

The first 20 years or more of his business activities were perhaps legitimate. He was one of the first to specialise in electronic computerised share dealing. By the 1990s, he was the biggest broker on the Nasdaq electronic stock market and one of the best paid on Wall Street. "The owner's name is on the

There was no need to question how he always beat the stock market. He was, after all, 'Uncle Bernie'

door," he reassured clients. Madoff was twice Nasdaq chairman, consulted by politicians and regulators, and a trustee of Hofstra and Yeshiva universities.

In 1983 he opened a London office. Madoff liked Savile Row suits. He used the London operation to hide the fraud and divert clients' money to fund his lifestyle. There was a Manhattan penthouse, an ocean-front Long Island mansion, homes in Palm Beach and Cap d'Antibes, two yachts, a fishing boat and an executive jet. His only public vice was expensive cigars.

BLMIS occupied two floors of the Lipstick building in Manhattan. The fraud was run from a third floor, closed to those involved with the brokerage business.

Madoff refused then to explain how he never lost money. Even one of his sons later told the FBI his father was "cryptic" about the investment advisory business. If pressed, he would mention a complex system that involved matching buy/sell options. Those who wanted to know more could keep their money. Told at a party that his performance was too good to be true, Madoff laughed and replied: "A lot of people say that." It later emerged that major banks and hedge funds had doubts about his magic but said nothing publicly, although at least one is believed to have tipped off the SEC.

The fraud was stunningly simple. Madoff decided what return he wanted each month then, using historical price data, pretended to have bought and sold blue chip shares at the prices necessary to deliver that figure. Then a small crew of trusted, over-paid employees generated an ever-growing flood of fake confirmations and client statements.

Madoff went global, attracting cash from banks and fund managers in the US, Europe and Latin America with low commission charges. But they charged their clients fat management fees for access to Madoff. It was money for nothing.

Pleading guilty in March 2009, Madoff said he began the fraud in the early 90s recession to meet clients' expectations for higher returns. "I believed it would end shortly and I would be able to extricate myself and my clients. However, this proved ultimately impossible." His righthand man, Frank DiPascali, disagreed, saying the fraud had begun much earlier.

Madoff was almost caught in 1992 when two accountants, who had brought in \$440m for him since 1962, promising their clients up to 20% a year, attracted the SEC's attention. Questions were raised about the high returns but Madoff's explanations were accepted. Money was returned, and the SEC lost interest.

In 2001 Madoff had another narrow escape. Two articles, the first published in Barron's financial



magazine and the second in the trade publication MARHedge - one headlined Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the other Madoff Tops Charts, Sceptics Ask How - disclosed that, although not registered as an investment adviser, he was managing billions. Again, the SEC did nothing.

Four years later, the analyst Harry Markopolos, who had first warned the SEC in 2000, sent it a report headed The World's Largest Hedge Fund is a Fraud, showing Madoff's consistent returns were impossible without fraud. He listed 30 "red flags". The SEC investigated but was convinced more by Madoff's reputation and SEC connections. He claimed they simply did not understand his secret system, while they believed he was too big and too respected to be a conman.

But the Lehman Brothers collapse in September 2008 panicked even "Jewish T-Bill" holders. By early December, Madoff had paid out \$6bn, with billions more due. Ponzi schemes end when money out exceeds money in. Madoff knew he was going under, and orchestrated the inevitable end. On 10 December that year he confessed to his brother, Peter, then to his sons, Mark and Andrew, all of whom worked at BLMIS, telling them: "It's all just one big lie." He had been running "a giant Ponzi scheme" and intended to turn himself in.

That night Madoff and his wife hosted the firm's annual staff party at a Mexican restaurant as if nothing was wrong, while his sons called the FBI. At 8.30am the next day, they arrived on his doorstep. Madoff told an FBI agent, Theodore Cacioppi: "There is no innocent explanation. It could not go on."

He cast himself as the sole villain, saying he alone had carried out the gigantic fraud - one that had clearly required the help or wilful blindness of others. He later told SEC investigators he was "astonished" not to be found out earlier. In five investigations the SEC never checked whether he was actually trading. Madoff described the fraud as "pretty open and straightforward, (hiding) everything but in an inept way".

In court Madoff showed little emotion. "I cannot offer you an excuse for my behaviour," he told his victims. "I'm sorry, I know that doesn't help you." Sentencing Madoff unusually to the maximum possible 150 years in June 2009, the federal judge, Denny Chin, who did not believe Madoff had "told all that he knows", described his crimes as "extraordinarily evil ... not merely a bloodless financial crime [but] one that takes a staggering human toll".

Madoff is survived by Ruth. His sons predeceased him.

Michael Gillard

Bernard Lawrence Madoff, financier, born 29 April 1938; died 14 April 2021

King Goodwill Zwelithini

Traditional Zulu leader with political clout in the new South Africa

The emergence of South Africa into an era of majority rule in 1994 was accompanied by a constitution that enshrined a wide range of equalities - not only racial equality, but gender equality and recognition of diverse sexual orientations. It was highly modern in its range, but all the same enshrined the position of traditional monarchs. Thus King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulu nation, who has died aged 72, was made part of a modern South Africa, while representing an old lineage and old practice.

The recognition of the Zulu king, in particular, was important because the four years of negotiation, from Nelson Mandela's release to the elections under universal franchise, had been marked not only by racial unease between black and white people, but by communal violence in KwaZulu and Natal (an area on the Indian Ocean coast that became KwaZulu-Natal province in 1994), between Zulu militants and supporters of the ANC. Pogroms and slaughter by Zulu attackers supporting the Inkatha Freedom party, and the reprisals that followed, marked the unease of a process in which traditionally powerful communities sought not to be marginalised in the new dispensation. Recognition of the Zulu king, and the inclusion at a high level of Jacob Zuma, himself a Zulu, in the ANC cabinet - Thabo Mbeki appointed him deputy president in 1999 - helped to assuage these fears.

Zwelithini had an uneasy relationship with Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister from 1976 of KwaZulu, which until unified with the province of Natal under the new democratic constitution consisted of 11 separate enclaves. In 1994 Buthelezi became minister of home affairs in the national government, but continued to hold regional power through remaining leader of the Inkatha Freedom party. Buthelezi's long-simmering differences with Mandela meant that the king was sometimes placed in the position of being used by both sides. Nonetheless, Zwelithini retained huge

prestige, influence and, indeed, political clout.

In 2018 Zuma, president since 2009 and dogged by scandal, came under intense pressure from even his own ANC colleagues to resign the presidency. His initial inclination to tough it out was dealt a blow by Zwelithini's private but powerful advice to depart quietly and with dignity. The meeting between Zuma and Zwelithini in the first week of February 2018 presaged Zuma's resignation a few days later.

Zwelithini's political sway derived from his lineage. He was a direct descendant of Cetshwayo, who fought against the British colonialists in 1879. The heroic military feats of those Zulu armies, echoing the earlier valour of Shaka Zulu, gave the throne an authority that could not be gainsaid as South Africa emerged from apartheid, seen as an extended colonial condition.

Born in Nongoma, KwaZulu, Zwelithini was the son of King Cyprian Bhekuzulu Nyangayezizwe kaSolomon and Queen Thomozile Jezangani kaNdwandwe. He succeeded on his father's death in 1968, and reigned for more than 50 years. His acumen throughout this time, notwithstanding occasional misjudgments, added to the reverence accorded him. Those misjudgments included his 2015 comments urging foreigners

to return home. Xenophobic violence followed and the king said his statements were read out of context - but it showed the power of his words. Those words were almost always straightforward. His style of speech was direct and not always comfortable listening for the ANC as he criticised the party's track record in government.

And those words resonated beyond the Zulu nation. As the husband of six wives, he had influence, too, in the Xhosa and Swazi nations. He saw himself as a custodian of traditional culture, reviving practices such as the reed dance, which celebrates the virtues of female virginity. He was active in raising awareness of HIV - without, however, recommending the virtues of male abstinence and virginity. Even so, his influence on the HIV debate, skewered by a period of HIV-denial on the part of the president, Thabo Mbeki, was critical. KwaZulu-Natal had a very high infection rate, and the intervention of the king was critical in reducing it.

South Africa has 11 million Zulus, about 18% of the population. This makes them a key variable in electoral voting stakes. In the days of apartheid, US support for South Africa was premised on its determination to preserve naval hegemony in the region, making the coastline of Natal and KwaZulu strategically important. The region is also one of great natural beauty, so it is a key feature of South African tourist drives, with the king active in portraying it as a desirable destination. Overall, the traditional king played a modern role, which he carried out with acuity and dignity.

Zwelithini is survived by his wives and 28 children. It is not immediately clear as to whom the succession might pass.

Stephen Chan

King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu of the Zulu nation, born 14 July 1948; died 12 March 2021



King Goodwill Zwelithini in 2019 RAJESH JANTILAL/AFP/GETTY

Birthdays

Lord (Jeffrey) Archer, novelist, 81; **Claudia Cardinale**, actor, 83; **Helena Costa**, football manager, 43; **Alex Crawford**, journalist, 59; **Mark Damazer**, former master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 66; **Dave Edmunds**, rock guitarist and singer, 77; **Samantha Fox**, model and singer, 55; **John Lamont**, Conservative MP, 45; **Lady (Veronica) Linklater**, social reform campaigner, 78; **John Lloyd**, journalist, 75; **Brian Muir**, sculptor, 69; **Ed O'Brien**, guitarist and songwriter, 53; **Jane Owen**, diplomat, 58; **Seth Rogen**, actor, 39; **Chris Stapleton**, musician, 43; **Dame Emma Thompson**, actor, 62; **Karl Turner**, shadow justice minister, 50; **Maj Gen Nick Vaux**, Falklands war commander, 85; **Emma Watson**, actor, 31; **Marty Wilde**, rock singer, 82; **Benjamin Zephaniah**, poet and writer, 63.

Letters

Jane Manning

May I add to the many credits cited in the obituary of Jane Manning (5 April) her moving performance in the title role in Edward Harper's one-act opera, Fanny Robin?

Manning first sang the role in a performance by the Edinburgh University Opera Club a year before taking part in its first professional production by Scottish Opera in 1978. Harper said he had the expressive range and pure sound of his friend Manning's voice continually in his mind and in his ear when scoring Fanny's part.

Roger Tarr

My friend and colleague Jane Manning established herself as a significant scholar in later life. Despite a healthy scepticism for academia in general, she produced, as part of a fellowship at Kingston University, Voicing Pierrot (2012), on performing Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire. Jane brought energy and verve to musical life at Kingston during her fellowship (2004-07) and after that as visiting professor until 2011.

Tim Ewers

Announcements

Deaths

ISBESTER, Audrey, 4 April 2021, aged 84. Adored wife of Capt. Jack Isbester. Mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

In Memoriam

CHARLESWORTH, Richard (Dick). Always missed and lovingly remembered.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, email us at announcements@theguardian.com including your name, address and telephone number or phone 0203 353 2114.

Yesterday's solutions

Killer sudoku

Easy

3	1	2	8	9	6	4	5	7
8	4	9	3	7	5	1	6	2
5	6	7	2	1	4	9	3	8
9	3	8	4	2	7	6	1	5
7	5	6	1	3	9	2	8	4
4	2	1	6	5	8	3	7	9
6	9	4	5	8	3	7	2	1
1	8	3	7	4	2	5	9	6
2	7	5	9	6	1	8	4	3

Medium

9	5	2	7	6	1	3	4	8
6	8	3	2	4	5	9	7	1
1	4	7	8	3	9	5	2	6
4	2	5	9	8	6	1	3	7
7	1	6	4	5	3	8	9	2
8	3	9	1	2	7	6	5	4
5	6	4	3	1	2	7	8	9
3	9	8	6	7	4	2	1	5
2	7	1	5	9	8	4	6	3

Codeword

F	A	O	E	X	T	R	A	S
G	L	O	V	E	B	O	X	H
A	U	L	P	R	O	U	T	
G	U	N	F	I	R	E	U	I
O	C	G	N	A	M	E	L	
I	N	J	U	R	E	S	E	
L	E	B	A	N	K			
M	A	D	V	I	S	E	R	
L	I	A	R	A	U			
N	G	I	N	S	E	C	T	
M	U	R	M	U	R	N	H	A
T	O	A	L	L	O	W	E	D
Z	E	R	O	N	E	O	G	
L	L	T	A	T	T	O	O	E
L	Y	R	I	C	S	S	D	S

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 28,419

	B		P	S					
M	A	R	G	I	N	M	A	J	E
O	E	N		L	O	R	U		
T	A	M	P	E	R	F	A	B	
I	S	N		T	I	P	E		
V	A	E	D	I	C	T	I	O	
A	E		O	N	E	F	T		
T	R	E	E	T	O	P	A	N	
E	P	R	P	T	E	X			
A	T	I	L	E	D	E	F	R	
A	T	B	R		O	Z	X		
B	A	R	O	U	C	H	E	S	
U	E	N	E		T	E	L		
T	A	K	E	A	W	A	Y	B	
	L	D			D				



Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate). Want more? Get access to more than 4,000 puzzles at theguardian.com/crossword. To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

3			13			16		13	
28					4	14			
7	12			15		8	15		4
	11			22		13			
25					12	18	7		
23		21							11
					13				
	19				7	5	14		
	10		6				16		

Medium

6	12		9		14	13			
			19			10		21	
13		29			9		17		
9				19					
				11	14		22		
18	17		8			19		8	
				23	9		13		
	21							4	
		11			7				

Codeword

Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.

1	10	14	18	24		9	4	25	20	16	4	
19		10		14		12		20		4		1
15	18	22	4	21	8	5		12	2	10	20	8
14		14		21		4		10		10		20
6	14	18	7	12	20	1	5		21	12	12	26
		4		18			12		20			14
1	20	5	1		26	20	24	11	5	13	15	10
15			14		14		14		26			10
26	14	18	1	14	16	22	1		4	18	25	3
8			1		4			6		12		
10	14	23	3		26	4	13	10	4	2	4	1
20		12		1		8		12		20		20
16	12	18	16	11		12	15	5	17	12	26	18
4		14		15		16		16		15		22
	8	10	20	18	5	11		11	15	1	22	1
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,420 set by Crucible

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9										10				
11								12						
13						14								15
16						17							18	
19		20								21				
22								23						
24						25								

- Across
- 9

Regroup behind mountains (9)
- 10

Brewer's agent definitely saves a ton (5)
- 11

Australian and Yankee hosting finest PM (7)
- 12

In middle of power cut Republican gets shock (7)
- 13

Late spin doctor carried in current up north (5)
- 14

Education graduates quietly study cover at night (9)
- 16

Test for dentist before and after qualifying? (4,11)
- 19

Labelled each book stolen by cardinal (9)
- 21

Jam one drug inside another (5)
- 22

Replacement chopper unwisely turned east (7)
- 23

Scream one's stifled at church crush (7)
- 24

Wife comes in behind Labour (5)
- 25

Game girl tours part of the UK, a fabulous place (9)

- Down
- 1

Item in trunk you are missing in British seaside resort (10)
- 2

I ate crab at sea, hence my indigestion? (8)
- 3

Medic works on last bit of nasty complaint (6)
- 4

English sailors expressing a feeling of resentment (4)
- 5

Instant victory over Germany renewed strength (6,4)
- 6

Help revolutionary over variable period in US (8)
- 7

Taste last bit of tuna in dish (6)
- 8

What irritated viewer during last year? (4)
- 14

Boycott poet harbouring European buccaneer (10)
- 15

Ass died carrying leader (10)
- 17

Withdraw two women university introduced (8)
- 18

Rewrite ruling on former respiratory aid (4,4)
- 20

Send up note for producer of junket (6)
- 21

Shakers film set in vineyards (6)
- 22

Record first half of find (4)
- 23

Very old 8, for instance (4)



Beware of the dog?

The problem with Britain's puppy explosion



The Guardian

Thursday 15/04/21

Life

& Arts

Megan Nolan

Why talk to your date when you could smell them?
page 3



'Telling stories - that's the family thing'

Danny Huston on his father John and sister Anjelica
page 8



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Megan Nolan

Is everyone really so awful – or have we forgotten how to trust?

Aspectre is haunting Britain – the spectre of the public. Can't you feel them? They've been lying in wait for months, ambiently monstrous, doing God knows what in their homes. Watching overly large televisions, probably, and smoking things you and I haven't even heard of. They have been hosting illegal raves in their garden sheds, and feeding their children sugary cereal and cocaine for breakfast – and now they are seeping on to the streets again. The public are a frightful lot: coarse, dangerous and not to be trusted. They don't care about the real people – which is to say, me and my immediate family. They care only for themselves. Something must be done. The public must be kept indoors at all costs.

What do you think of when you consider the public? If you think of them as an entity that has something to do with yourself, then you are in a diminishing minority. This week, as life made its keenly awaited comeback, individual distrust of the public has become clear. A recent YouGov poll revealed a glaring discrepancy between the number of respondents who believe they will personally behave responsibly in pubs and shops, and those who believe the public will do the same. We assume the best of ourselves and lack the imaginative powers to extend that assumption to others, who will surely welcome the pub back by waving infected handkerchiefs in the faces of patrons and glassing bar staff.

Britain has long had a reputation as a nation of curtain-twitchers, of course, but the pandemic has exacerbated these tendencies and lent them unearned moral authority. From the very beginning of the pandemic it has been a trope for tutting scolds to photograph strangers who are sitting in parks or queueing for coffee to shame them, without feeling the need to justify why they themselves were in the exact same space. No need to, really: it's obvious that, while the subjects of the photography are slack-jawed buffoons sitting about without a care in the world, the photographer is outside for a virtuous reason like exercise or mental health maintenance. Certainly not for anything as frivolous and selfish as enjoyment. Pleasure? In this economy? I don't think so.

When was it that we stopped believing that other people are essentially like us? I don't mean believing that we all share specific traits, but rather extending the general assumption that the motivations of others are not utterly divergent from our own. Perhaps I am naive and it has always been the case that the individual credits him or herself with justifiable motivations even when wrongdoing takes place, and ascribes stupidity and wickedness to strangers who behave identically. But it does feel like the last year has done something worrying to how we conceive of the wider world. This was something I felt acutely in the beginning of the first lockdown: grief at the forceful splintering of inconsequential relationships to strangers. I did not voice this grief much because doing so seemed to attract accusations of being a conspiracy theorist or denier of Covid. This has been another frustration: that to merely speak about the momentous and tragic effects of protective measures is received as a campaign to stop taking them. I never believed it was wrong for the wearing of masks to be enforced, for instance, but I was saddened by their sudden ubiquity in our lives. It made me feel disconnected from the world, and from that famous shape-shifting mass: the public.

I got over it, of course, but I did feel that something was changing about our engagement with one another, even if it was relatively minor in the circumstances. Now I wonder how minor it was – not the masks in particular but the whole lot of it. The quick learning curve that taught us to regard each other's bodies as fatal, the tacit encouragement to rat each other out, the government bombarding us with an ad campaign that blamed the crisis on a largely compliant population. Some of it was necessary and some of it wasn't, but regardless of the efficacy of the measures, they have had an effect on more than just virus transmission. The distrust will need to be addressed and eroded, the lesson relearned that the public isn't out there, separate and malevolent – the public is ourselves.



Dating is back! Just don't ask me what I've been reading

God help me, I'm dating again. I thought about this with reverent anticipation for so long and now it's here. Of course, I have forgotten how to speak, and what I am supposed to wear, and how many messages a day it is legal to send to someone you fancy.

There are several differences between dating now and dating before I spent months on end living alone, becoming eccentric and intolerant of other people. One of them is that I have lost all interest in the traditional dating foreplay of trading cultural interests with the object of my desire.

This is a big deal. For those of us who don't have the luxury of relying solely on our looks, flaunting a carefully curated record collection, or an extensive knowledge of BFI programming, has been a vital method of snaring a mate. I have a painful memory of trying to attract the attention of my first crush by standing near him in the newsagent and picking up a copy of NME with a flourish. I stood beside him, leafing through it, occasionally making an actual noise of interest. "Hmml!" I grunted, at news of the latest Klaxons single.

It wasn't all for show, either – it was because the books and films and songs I loved seemed to make up my most essential parts. To this day, there is still a bit of me that feels defined by the fact my favourite film is Harold and Maude.

Seeing, however, as I have had nothing but cultural products for company for most of a year, I'm done with them. I never want to watch prestige television again, or listen to a podcast. Music is strictly only for soundtracking sex. I'm ready to be a mostly mute philistine who lives only for base pleasures. When I go on a date, I'm not asking who their favourite composer is, or what they think about Philip Roth. I'm going to suggest cutting right to it: seeing if we like the smell of each other and taking it from there.



Pass notes



No 4,270

Lockdown hair

Age: One and a bit.

Appearance: Shaggy.

But hairdressers are open in England, Wales and Scotland. I've got an appointment next week. We chaps can go back to military-style buzzcuts. Hey, get with it, man.

I'm sorry? Lockdown hair is here to stay. Ask Tomasz Schafernaker (*pictured*).

Who? Tomasz Schafernaker. The BBC's "rebel" weather forecaster.

Surely a "rebel weather forecaster" is a contradiction in terms. Not at all. He's young, wacky, arty and, most important of all, he's refusing to cut his hair! He's decided the wild look is good, whatever viewers think.

Sack him. We want well-groomed weather people. You're not the emeritus weatherman Bill Giles, are you? He takes the same view, arguing that audiences won't trust a forecaster whose fringe is obscuring his eyes.

Well said. What is the world coming to? One viewer described Schafernaker's unkempt look as "a cross between a member of Abba and a 1970s porn star". But he's vowed to keep it. "It'll need a little styling, but that's it," he says. "My choice."

Whatever next? Huw Edwards with a man bun? Andrew Marr with a caveman beard?

Anything goes post-lockdown. GQ's grooming columnist, Phillip Picardi, says men have been "liberated from expectations" and long hair, moustaches and beards are a growing trend.

I don't think so. Even Boris Johnson has had a haircut. Allegedly. His hair managed to look almost as messy after it as before.

Once people get back to the office, the unkempt look won't wash. That's possible, but many think we are on the cusp of real change. These things come in waves. Nothing is permanent, least of all a perm. This is about personal growth and the human condition(er).

OK, enough hair allusions. Get to the point.

Short hair has dominated men's hairdressing for decades, but the wheel is finally turning – celebrity crimpers sense a reaction against the short back and sides. "It's time for a change," said Joe Mills of the London barber's Joe & Co, when speaking to Esquire.

You're extrapolating wildly from one man's decision not to have a haircut. There's definitely revolution in the hair.

Says who? Forbes sees the move to long hair as a throwback to the counterculture of the 60s and 70s – and as a rejection of the cropped haircuts favoured by the Trump administration. Hair is deeply political.

I suppose I should cancel my appointment at the barber's. Or just ask for a Schafernaker.

Not to be confused with: A longwool sheep.

Do say: "Hair today, definitely not gone tomorrow."

Don't say: "My usual No 1, please."

Is your job keeping you single?

Long hours are making it hard for many people to have a life outside work - and almost impossible for some to sustain a relationship. It's time to fight back, says **Sarah Jaffe**



Laura Hancock started practising yoga when she worked for a charity. It was a job that involved long hours and caused a lot of anxiety. Yoga was her counterbalance. "It saved my life, in a way," she says.

Eventually, she decided to become a yoga teacher. Yoga brought her a sense of peace and started her journey of self-inquiry; eventually, she decided to bring those benefits to others by becoming a yoga teacher. She studied for more than eight years before qualifying. That was about 10 years ago; since then, she has been teaching in Oxford, her home town.

At first, the work felt like a privilege, even though she was working a lot and not earning much. "There was a sense that, if you gave it your all and you did it with integrity and love, then it would eventually work out for you."

But recently she had a moment of realisation. "I can't afford my rent, I have no savings, I have no partner, I have no family. I'm 38 and most of my friends have families; they're buying houses," she says. "There is a lot of grief around that. I feel like I've just landed on Earth, like a hard crash on to the ground, and am looking around and feeling quite lonely."

Hancock is one of the many people in recent years to recognise that they have devoted themselves to their work and neglected everything else that might give their life meaning. For workers across many sectors, long, irregular hours, emotional demands and

sometimes low rates of pay mean it is increasingly hard to have a life outside of work - and particularly hard to sustain relationships.

Long before Covid locked us all in our homes, alone or otherwise, the evidence was pointing out repeatedly that loneliness and singledom are endemic in this phase of capitalism. Fewer people are marrying and those who are are doing so later; we are having less sex. A 2018 study found that 2.4 million adults in Britain "suffer from chronic loneliness". Another projection found that nearly one in seven people in the UK could be living alone by 2039 and that those living alone are less financially secure.

For Hancock, turning her yoga practice into her career meant giving up much of her social life. She was "knackered" at the end of a long day - and the expectation that she would continue her education through pricey retreats meant, at times, that

she was spending more than she was making. It was at the end of a four-hour workshop in a local church in 2018 that the penny dropped. A student came up to her and said: "You are not well. We need to go to the doctor."

Her GP found infections in her ear and her chest. She spent seven weeks recovering in bed, which gave her a lot of time to face the reality of exactly how vulnerable she was.

Lauren Smith, 34, a teacher in the west of England, was given a warning by a colleague before she applied for her postgraduate certificate in education. "It's going to be the most intense year of your life," they said. At the time, she thought she was ready for it, but it took its toll on her relationship. "I remember coming home and just ... not even being able to talk to him."

Things did not improve when she started working as a teacher. "There's this culture in education

I can't afford my rent, I have no savings, no partner. I'm 38 and my friends have families



where it's almost competitive about how much you work," she says. The social relationships at school wind up as a substitute for a personal life; she briefly dated another teacher. However, apart from "the odd fling", she says, "in terms of actually dating, I find that my enthusiasm or my energy for it..." She trails off.

The strain on their personal lives has made Smith and Hancock look at the sustainability of their working lives. Hancock is one of the founding members of the new yoga teachers' union, a branch of the Independent Workers of Great Britain (IWGB), the union representing gig economy workers and those in traditionally non-unionised workplaces. Smith is active in the National Education Union, but is considering a career change. "The demands on teachers have just increased so much and, with the funding cuts, I'm now doing the job of three people," she says.

"Everything else you love about

your job has been pushed to the wayside and it's all about those exam results," says Smith. The No1 thing she would like "would be more planning time. Maybe I could have one less class, which means I can put my mental energy into the students and have the time and the headspace to do other things."

It is not that she is hanging everything on the hope of a romantic relationship - and she does not want children - but nevertheless Smith longs for time and energy to devote to the people she cares about, rather than her job. "In the nine years that I have been a teacher, it has got harder and harder. If things don't change, I can't see myself staying in this job beyond two years from now."

If work is getting in the way of our relationships, it is not an equally distributed problem. The decline in marriage rates "is a class-based affair", say the law professors Naomi Cahn and June Carbone, the authors

of the book *Marriage Markets: How Inequality Is Remaking the American Family*. The well-off are more likely to marry and have more stable families - and the advantages of this family structure are conferred on their offspring. For those in a more precarious financial situation, it can often be easier to stay single.

Economic stability provides "a better foundation for loyalty, one based on relationship satisfaction and happiness rather than economic dependency or need", found the academics Pilar Gonalons-Pons and David Calnitsky when they studied the impact of an experiment with universal basic income in Canada. If we were not so worried about paying the bills, perhaps we would have the time for better relationships.

In an atomised world, being in a couple is how most people have access to care and love. The status of being partnerless, or, as the writer Caleb Luna has put it, being "singled" - an active process that means single people are denied affection or care because they are reserved for people in couples - can leave many people without life-sustaining care. As Luna writes, the culture of "self-love", in which we are encouraged to love, support and sustain ourselves, leaves out those for whom this is not a choice.

Care is overwhelmingly still provided by partners in a romantic couple or other family members: in the UK, 6.5 million people - one in eight adults - provide care for a sick or disabled family member or partner. The charity Carers UK estimates that, during the pandemic in 2020, 13.6 million people were carers. What happens to those without partners or family members to provide care? It becomes someone's job.

Care is often outsourced to paid workers. Many of them are immigrants - some of whom have left their own partners and children behind in order to go elsewhere for work, says Prof Laura Briggs of the women, gender and sexuality studies department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The harsh crackdowns on migration to the US and the UK have left these workers in a uniquely vulnerable position. They would "work for almost any wage, no matter how low, to support family and household members back home", wrote Briggs in her 2017 book *How All Politics Became Reproductive Politics*. With their family far away, the worker is free to devote all their time - and their care - to their employer.

It is not just care work that is blending the boundaries between people's work lives and personal lives. In many sectors, offices have been designed to look, feel and act like a home, to keep employees there for longer - with free food available

We were working illegal hours. Most of my time off was spent just sleeping

24/7, areas to rest and play with Lego, office pets, informal dress codes and even showers to create a feeling that work is a "family".

When I met Karn Bianco, he was a freelance computer game programmer who had tired of the long hours. "Your life became just work," he said. "You would go in at 9am and would work through until 10 or 11 at night sometimes." It was fine for a while, he said. "When I was an intern, I was single, I knew I was only in that desk for a year. I had no responsibilities, no dependents."

But as Bianco, who is now 31 and living in Glasgow, got older and entered into a relationship, it became impossible. "I even tried to start coups of sorts," he said, trying to convince his colleagues to walk out en masse at 5pm. But it did not take, so he was stuck trying to improve his own conditions, going home at 5pm on his own - something that was possible only because he had worked his way up the ladder. Eventually, Bianco went freelance, then left the industry entirely.

Bianco is one of the founding members of the gaming industry branch of the IWGB, which is fighting the long hours in the sector. Traditionally, there was a crunch time, when, just before a product launch, programmers were expected to put in 100-hour weeks with no extra pay. Now, as games are connected to the internet and consumers expect constant updates, crunch time is pretty much all the time. "They try to instil that feeling of: 'You have to do this for the family [company]'; rather than: 'This is a transaction. You pay me and I work,'" said Austin Kelmor, 40, when I met him along with Bianco.

But what happens when the "family" is gone and the workers are left on their own? Layoffs are common in the games industry - so common that one observer created a website, videogamelayoffs.com, to track them. (In 2020, there were an estimated 2,090 job losses as part of mass redundancies in the gaming industry.) When Kelmor was laid off, his partner's income was a lifesaver, but it made him think: "Do I want to do games any more?" He is still in the industry and active in the union. "Without unions, we had no idea what our rights were," Bianco says. "We were working illegal hours

and didn't even know it. Most of my time at home during some of those weeks was just sleeping."

The pandemic has made many people face up to loneliness. One-third of women and one-fifth of men report feeling lonely or isolated.

Ruth Jones trained as a librarian in Canada and moved around from job to job - nearly once a year for 14 years. "Finding work has definitely been a factor in why I haven't dated much at 31," she says. "How do you date someone wholeheartedly knowing that, at some point in a year, max, you're going to have to make a decision about someone taking or not taking a job, being split up, doing long distance?"

A chronic illness means that, recently, she has been out of the workplace, stuck at home. She has realised the way in which our obsession with work is entangled with our romantic relationships. On dating apps and sites, "most people identify strongly with their jobs", she says. Where does this leave someone who is unable to work long-term? "At a minimum, I am supposed to feel guilty for being unproductive, useless - and live a frugal, monk-like life," she says.

She does not mind that she might not be able physically to do the same things as a potential partner, but she often finds that *they* do, especially as the apps are designed to pass judgment on people immediately. It feels impossible to find someone with whom to connect. "I feel like I'm not looking for a unicorn, I'm looking for a gold Pegasus."

The apps often feel like another job, says Smith. She will click on the dating site, flick through some profiles, maybe match with someone and exchange a couple of messages. Then a week of teaching goes by in a blur and, she says: "You have a look and you've missed the boat." She often ends up deciding to spend her spare time with friends, or catching up on rest. And, of course, those dating apps are big business, profiting from workers being kept single by their jobs. The founder of the dating app Bumble was recently lauded as the "world's youngest self-made woman billionaire".

Hancock, who works in a solitary industry, has found organising with her union enormously helpful. "I remember being in this room and hearing so many different people from different industries talking and realising that we shared so much," she says. "I wasn't alone."

It is through the union that she hopes to be able to change not just her own situation, but also the industry. After all, going home early by yourself - or leaving the industry - might be a temporary solution, but the real challenge is ending the culture of overwork. Perhaps it is time to revisit the original wants of International Workers' Day, which called for the day to be split into eight-hour chunks: for work, for rest and time for "what we will", whether that is romance, family, friends or otherwise.

Some names have been changed.
Buy Work Won't Love You Back by Sarah Jaffe (Hurst, £20) for £17.40 at guardianbookshop.com



'People forget dogs are animals'

There are now two million more dogs in the UK than a year ago. But sweet little puppies grow into sharp-toothed adults – and dog bites are soaring.
Simon Usborne reports

Annie Forman's cockapoo was not a pandemic puppy, but she became one: a furry lifebuoy to cling to during the first lockdown. Forman, 28, a receptionist at a GP surgery in a small Devon town, had grown up with dogs. They had never let her down, which she couldn't say for some of the humans in her life. So when in January last year, Forman moved from her parents' dog-filled home to her own place, the first thing she did was get a puppy. "There was no way I was going to go anywhere in life without a dog," Forman says on the phone. As she speaks, Nellie the cockapoo is curled up on her lap. "I've struggled with my mental health for many years, and dogs were what got me through it. That's why it was a bit crap what happened – because

everything that had made me feel better sort of got taken away."

Forman had seen the rottweiler before. It spent its days penned in a front garden, looking forlorn. In late October, Forman had dropped Nellie at her parents' house after a morning walk, and was heading home to get ready for work. "I saw the owner first, standing on the edge of the pavement with the dog," she recalls. She squeezed between the pair and some railings when the dog began to bark.

"It just leapt up at me," she says. "It was aiming for my face, but I put my arm up, and it took a massive chunk of it clean off. I couldn't feel anything at first because it had taken all the nerve endings."

Forman had joined the unfortunate ranks of Britain's dog-bite survivors. They are a growing breed. While statistics do not yet paint a complete picture, what we know is troubling: hospitals, personal injury lawyers, dog walkers and trainers all report that soaring demand for canine companions in the past year is coming back to bite us.

Some cases grab the headlines, and cannot simply be blamed on the pandemic. Earlier this month Lucille Downer, a grandmother in her 80s, died after being attacked in her West Midlands garden by dogs that had escaped from a neighbouring property. The animals were euthanised. In March in London, a QC said she was "heartbroken" after her dog attacked "Freddie Mercury", a seal that had made a home in the Thames. Freddie had to be put down. Meanwhile, in the US, after Joe Biden's rescue dog, Major, nipped two staffers, a White House spokesperson said the german shepherd was "still adjusting to his new surroundings".

But it is an everyday pattern of nips in the park and attacks in the home, including on children, that is raising wider concern. The Pet Food Manufacturers' Association estimates there are now 12 million dogs in the UK, up about 2 million in 12 months. French bulldogs and labradors are the most popular new dogs, according to analysis of pet insurance quotes by GoCompare.

As pandemic puppies grow into dogs with sharp teeth, too many lack the training to be walked safely in the post-lockdown world. Meanwhile, dogs that remember life before Covid are on edge after a topsy-turvy year and face more upheaval as lockdown restrictions ease.

"Puppies haven't been getting the same mental stimulation they would have done," says Dr Jenna Kiddie, the head of canine behaviour at the Dogs Trust. "They haven't been exposed to visitors to the home in the same way or been around other dogs. So we're very worried about how they're going to respond. Because they will probably respond with fear, and one way a dog can cope with fear is to use aggression."

When Forman went to hospital in Exeter for emergency surgery on her arm, she was recorded as a "W54". The "exposure to animate mechanical forces" section of the World Health Organization's classification system for health problems includes the codes W58 ("bitten by a crocodile") and W60 ("contact with plant thorns"). W54 is "bitten or struck by a dog".

More than 200 miles north of Exeter, in Liverpool, doctors at Alder Hey children's hospital had begun to notice a rise in W54s soon after the first lockdown started last March. Social isolation was good for children's physical health, if not always their mental wellbeing; there were fewer acute infections and accidents, for example. "But there was what felt like a lot of dog bites," says Simon Minford, an advanced nurse practitioner specialising in cosmetic surgery for trauma patients at Alder Hey. "I remember one day seeing three or four cases, which was unusual. That's what started alarm bells ringing."

Alder Hey was already part of the Merseyside Dog Safety Partnership, which includes academics, charities and councils. When Minford and his colleagues shared their concerns at a meeting of the group, John

Tulloch's ears pricked up. Tulloch, a vet and epidemiologist at the University of Liverpool, has been fascinated by injuries to humans caused by animals, partly since breaking a rib while calving a cow (a W64, by the way).

Tulloch has led a push to record and better analyse dog-bite data. In January, he published a study that used the W54 code to examine hospital admissions in England from 1998 to 2018. In 20 years, admissions for dog bites almost tripled, from six to 15 per 100,000 people, which equalled 8,000 admissions in 2018. Children aged under 14 made up a quarter of that number, which does not include bites patched up by GPs or in the home. The rise easily outpaced growth in the dog population.

After the meeting, Tulloch began crunching the numbers at Alder Hey. His latest study, published last week, revealed a threefold increase in dog-bite attendances after the start of the first lockdown, peaking last July when doctors there dealt with 44 attacks - about 12 a week. While W54s include dog "strikes" - people being knocked over - Tulloch says records show the vast majority of cases are bites. "Often these are children who maybe have had only a graze on the knee before," says Minford, who has two cocker spaniels and two sons. "And suddenly they're in hospital with a bite to the face. Every interaction is heartbreaking."

The jump at Alder Hey echoes evidence recorded elsewhere. West Midlands police dealt with 800 dog-attack incidents in 2020, a three-year high. Tulloch wants to do more research, partly to capture how many bites happen without leading to hospital admissions. He also wants to better understand why dogs attack and why they are doing so more now. "One of the key research questions we have is: 'What is happening just before a bite occurs?'" he says.

People think it's dangerous dogs with irresponsible owners, but it's not like that



'We're shocked when dogs go from calm to biting' ... (below) Carri Westgarth

With kids stuck at home, there has been more exposure - and a greater leaning on dogs for play or emotional support. Small children are more vulnerable, clumsy and fearless. But dogs, more than ever, are also now treated as family members. Boundaries have become blurred; guards have dropped.

Carri Westgarth was about two when her mum ran upstairs to fetch a nappy, leaving her alone with the family's two placid jack russells. By the time she came back down, one of the dogs had bitten Westgarth on the head. She still has the scars. She thinks she may have crawled over to the animal, which was going blind, and confused it enough to trigger an attack.

Now 39, Westgarth was not put off dogs. Like everyone I spoke to for this article, she is a dog-lover. A former canine-behaviour counsellor, she is now a senior lecturer in human-animal interaction at the University of Liverpool, and co-author of Tulloch's studies.

Westgarth, whose book *The Happy Dog Owner* is out this month, says that even dog trainers often share the commonly held view that some attacks are inevitable and



associated with certain breeds - and owners. Yet fatal attacks remain extremely rare; there were fewer than three a year, on average, from 1981 to 2015. While attacks by "dangerous" breeds such as pit bulls make headlines, Tulloch says there is no good data on breeds and bites.

Any breed can bite, Westgarth adds. She believes stereotypes stymie research and prevention. The pandemic has highlighted the breadth of the problem, in and out of the home, where too many pandemic puppies have missed out on socialisation. "You see them on the street," she says. "They avoid you or look nervous, and a lot of my colleagues are doing a lot of work with very nervous adolescent dogs bought by well-

If you shout at a dog not to growl at a child, it is more likely to bite when you're not around

meaning people who just didn't realise how important those early months are."

Hannah Molloy, a dog-behaviour expert based in the West Midlands, says puppies need to be socialised to get used to the human world from eight to 16 weeks. "Too many people don't do it or think they can do it alone," she says. "We want everything tomorrow, and then we're shocked when dogs go from calm to biting. But they've never had the opportunity to learn alternative behaviours."

Molloy says owners can spot warning signs before a dog becomes anxious or threatened enough to bite. "The earliest sign is it licking its nose and turning its head away," she says. A paw clutched to the chest can be another. Some scared dogs roll on to their backs; a tummy tickle is the worst possible response. Instead, Molloy recommends giving an anxious dog space.

Setting boundaries is important, but severe or sustained punishments can repress emotion, displacing problems. "If you constantly shout at a dog not to growl at a child, all that happens is that when that adult punisher isn't around, the dog is more likely to bite, in my experience, because they associate that child with bad things happening," Molloy says.

Kiddie says there are ways of getting dogs used to visitors to the house again. Owners can teach a dog to associate a door-knock or bell-ring with a treat in its bed, so that it automatically heads for bed rather than the door. "The doorbell going is also a situation where it's so easy to take your eyes off the children," she warns.

Above all, Westgarth says, do not be complacent. She warns any owner never to leave children and dogs together unsupervised. Stair or door gates should also separate them overnight and during meal times. Even old, docile dogs can respond badly to undiagnosed joint pain or sight loss. "People think there are dangerous dogs with irresponsible owners going round doing all the biting," she says. "But it's not like that. The phrase you hear time and time again is: 'He's never done anything like this before.'"

The emotional and financial effects of a bite can take longer to heal than the wounds.

Jenna Foxton, a freelance photographer, was walking her rescue pomeranian-pug hybrid, Disco, near her home in Cornwall last December when a passing greyhound on a lead went for its throat. When she tried to prise apart the greyhound's jaws, one of its teeth tore through one of the tendons in her finger. A surgeon had to reattach it.

Foxton, 36, was stuck in casts for seven weeks, in pain and unable to work. Friends persuaded her to seek compensation. She found James McNally, AKA "the dog bite solicitor", who is based at Slee Blackwell, a firm in Taunton. His inbox went crazy when the pandemic took hold; inquiries leapt from about two a week to five a day.

More than half of McNally's clients are self-employed delivery drivers, who are bringing more stuff to more homes with more dogs. "But because everyone was out walking their dogs and jogging in the same parks at the same time, we were also getting a lot of attacks and injuries like that," he says. McNally only pursues insured dog owners via their insurance companies, although owners themselves are also liable to be sued or prosecuted for failing to control a dog, depending on the severity of the attack. Penalties can rise to 14 years in prison. Compensation varies; an Amazon delivery driver McNally acted for last year received £3,000 after being bitten on the leg.

McNally predicts a further rise in cases as pandemic dogs adjust to eased restrictions. He says victims should always exchange details with owners, call the police and get medical attention (any break in the skin can lead to infection). Delivery workers should also take photos of the house at the time of the attack. "It's not unheard of for 'Beware of the dog' signs to appear afterwards," he says.

Foxton, who is still fearful while walking Disco, is waiting to hear if she will get compensation. She may require more surgery to improve movement in the finger. "I can still hold a pint at least," she says. Disco recovered much more quickly; vets think her fleshy folds saved her life. "Dogs are just cute, cuddly things on Instagram for some people who maybe haven't grown up with them," Foxton says. "But people forget that they are animals."

Forman knew this, just as she knew that dogs also helped keep her afloat, not least when the pandemic left her isolated. "She became everything," she says of Nellie. The attack left Forman in a spin. She had nightmares and felt a return of the stress disorder she had experienced after a traumatic episode in her teens.

Forman's scar now looks remarkably neat compared with the gory picture she sent me of her arm after the attack. But going for a walk, with or without Nellie, can still make her anxious. "I still love dogs - they're everything - and I think that's why all this has upset me so much," she says.



'I would go around the world with my father – and make his drinks!'

Danny Huston has Hollywood in his blood. The actor tells **Hadley Freeman** why he's stepping into his father John's shoes again – to direct a film about grief, secrets and the Lockerbie bombing

W

ith his father, the legendary director John Huston, it was that gravelly voice that you noticed first. With his sister, Anjelica Huston, it is her magnificent nose. And with his nephew, actor Jack Huston, it's the moustache. But with actor-director Danny Huston, it is, unarguably, the eyebrows: those great looping Ls that waggle away as you chat with him, as if they were having their own separate conversation with you. People often talk about his resemblance to his father, but, I tell him, the celebrity he always looked most like to me is Jack Nicholson, thanks to those brows.

"Yes, Jack defined these eyebrows before I was able to grow into mine," he grins, bearish in size and wolfish in smile.

Isn't it a little weird for his sister Anjelica that her baby brother looks so much like her ex-boyfriend?

"Hmmm, I know what you mean. Well, I think that only enabled her to have greater affection towards both of us – ha!"

Those distinctive features have also helped to make him one of the most ubiquitous and enjoyable character actors to have emerged in the past two decades. He deployed them to superb effect in his breakthrough performance, in one of my favourite films of the early

Haunted ...
Huston also
stars in
*The Last
Photograph*



2000s, *Evans* etc, a modern retelling of *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, directed by Bernard Rose, in which Huston played a drug-addicted Hollywood agent who feels death's cold breath on his neck. Imagine Robert Altman's *The Player*, but more pitiless and with more heart, simultaneously. It was Huston's first major acting role, having intended to be a full-time director, but he was so extraordinary in it that his little lark turned into an accidental career. Martin Scorsese cast him as airline magnate Jack Frye in *The Aviator*, and he looked more at home in Hollywood's golden era than Leonardo DiCaprio. As evil General Ludendorff in *Wonder Woman*, those eyebrows made him look ferocious and pleasingly cartoonish, and as moneyman Jamie Laird in *Succession*, he was lugubrious and calculating.

"When I was making [the 2005 film written by Nick Cave] *The Proposition*, the director John Hillcoat took me aside at one point

and was having trouble saying what he wanted, and I said, 'What? Just tell me!' And he said, 'When you turn around, can you keep that eyebrow down?'" he says, and laughs again.

Huston, 58, is talking to me by video chat from his home in the Hollywood hills. The Hollywood sign is behind his house "but you really have to crane around at a right angle to see it. It's not in your face," he says. Hanging behind him is a drawing of a racehorse given to him by his nephew Jack, who recently played Bobby Kennedy in *The Irishman*. "It's nice, huh? Yeah, Jack's doing great in the family business," Huston says. He also has a home in Berkshire, which he describes as "a family home", where his mother, the actor Zoë Sallis, is staying, and where he and his partner, the English actor Rosie Fellner, and their two-year-old daughter, Luna, will spend the summer. (He also has an 18-year-old



**Time heals
all wounds?
I don't think so.
It doesn't**

daughter, Stella, from an earlier relationship.) Before the interview, I promised myself I wouldn't ask Huston too much about his fascinating family, a proper Hollywood dynasty with roots as deep as the Barrymores, going back to his grandfather, the Oscar-winning actor, Walter Huston. But his relatives prove to be unavoidable

because he is surrounded by them, even if they're not in your face and you have to crane a little to see them. "My relationship with film began with lacing film into old projectors, anxious maybe the film would rip, then the beam of light through some [of my father's] cigar smoke on the wall and then," he smiles, holding up his hands in a "ta da" pose, "there's my grandfather."

We're talking today about Huston's latest film, *The Last Photograph*, in which he stars, and it also marks his return to directing after an almost 20-year break.

"I wanted to get back in the saddle and the reason I cast myself was I knew I was available," he says. Adapted by Simon Astaire from his novel of the same name, the film opens with a morose bookseller, Tom (Huston), realising that his bag has been stolen from his shop, and in the bag is a hugely important photograph. We then learn in flashbacks why that photo was so

significant to him, and the cause of his unhappiness. Huston's eyebrows do sterling work in helping to delineate the timelines: in the scenes from the 1980s before the tragedy, they dance about happily; in the present, they hover hopelessly.

It's not really a spoiler to say that Huston's character suffered a terrible bereavement, and it involved the Pan Am 103 flight, which exploded over Lockerbie in 1988. Huston is excellent at conveying the heaviness of grief and the scene in which he finally realises that his loved one has been killed is unbearably poignant.

"The closed nature of the character, the psychological difficulty he's had trying to make sense of the tragedy, even all those years later - I thought that was interesting. Time heals all wounds? I don't think so. It doesn't," he says.

I ask if there were losses in his past that he drew on for the role, thinking he might mention friends who died, or Katie Jane Evans, the mother of his older daughter, who killed herself during their divorce. But instead, he goes back to his family.

"Yes, absolutely. The people I loved who are no longer here, the small things that make them relive but also break my heart. It's the 80th anniversary of *The Maltese Falcon* [which his father directed] and when I see my grandfather in small parts, like in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, he comes alive again. We all have last photographs, things that are closed off and tucked away," he says. Among those tucked away things are elements of his personal life: like Nicholson, Huston has a naughty glint in his eye and when I ask about some of the tabloid stories he's appeared in he says they are too complicated to discuss. So we return to the comparatively safer ground of his family.

Was going into film-directing a way of staying close to his father? "Yes, absolutely. I grew up on his film sets so I've always been comfortable on sets. Telling stories, that's the family thing," he says.

Huston was born in Rome in 1962, after his parents had an affair when his father was directing and his mother was starring "in a film based on a rather well-known book called *The Bible*". As well as directing *The Bible*, John Huston played Noah and the voice of God.

Therapists would have a lot of fun with that, I say.

"Exactly! And my mother was playing Hagar [Abraham's second wife], and she had a child dying from thirst in the desert, and the child wasn't me. That's where the therapy starts. I had a lot of difficulty separating truth from fiction with those characters," he says.

Huston didn't have "a Hollywood upbringing" because his father was living in Ireland, having turned his heel on the US in disgust during the House Committee on Un-American Activities investigations, which resulted in the blacklisting of many of his friends. So Huston was raised in Ireland and England, and still has US and UK citizenship. But given that John was married to Enrica Soma, the mother of



We are family ... Huston with father John, sister Anjelica and mother Zoë Sallis in 1985; right, his mother in *The Bible*

Anjelica, Allegra and Tony Huston, when Danny was conceived, and remained so until Soma's death in a car accident in 1969, I tell him I assumed that his father wasn't around much when he was growing up.

"Oh no, he was very involved in my childhood. He was like a pirate that would return from faraway countries, bearing gifts. I was lucky enough to visit him on film sets, like up in the Atlas mountains when he was making *The Man Who Would Be King*, and there was Connery and Caine and Christopher Plummer. For a young boy, it felt like the absolute adventure," he says.

I ask if it was ever awkward between him and Anjelica, given that their father was married to her mother when he was conceived.

"Ummm no, I don't think it ever was. We hit it off right from the start, and she was always very caring, my angel, my big sister. And she was really cool - she knew the Rolling Stones! She would take me out to various scenes that were cool for a

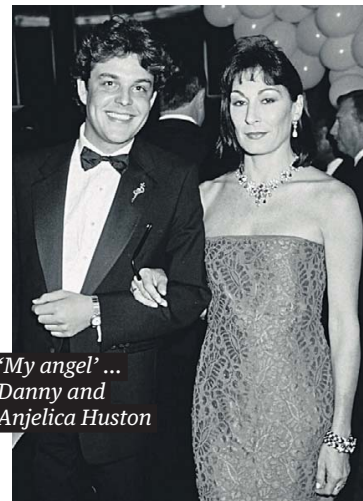
The reason I cast myself in the film was because I knew I was available

kid to experience," he says with, I imagine, some understatement.

It was his dad who gave him his first directing job back in 1984. "I would go around the world with my father and I would make his drinks for him, the flavour depending on the place. So he was shooting *Under the Volcano* with Albert Finney in Mexico and he was drinking Cuba



'My angel' ... Danny and Anjelica Huston



libres. So I would make his rum and Cokes and normally he would complain and say, "No no, the Coke is only there to colour it!" But my father was having trouble with the title sequence, it was too slow, and I'd been to film school, so I said, "You could do this..." And he said, "You do it!" And it made the cut," he says, the filial pride still in his face.

Still, did he never think, "Maybe I shouldn't do the job for which my father got 13 Oscar nominations and two wins?"

"Oh very much so. I rebelled for a while. Drawing was what I was really into - you don't need anyone else's money or permission to do that, you just pick up a pencil. But then I realised what the art scene was, and there might be even more grossness there [than in film]," he says, and clearly the only career options that exist are artist or film director.

His family sweetly encouraged his entry into the family business. His sister starred in his first directing job, *Mr North*, and his father initially agreed to appear in it too, but he

fell ill with the emphysema that would ultimately claim his life in 1987. So instead, John asked "an old friend" to appear in his young son's film, and that friend just happened to be Robert Mitchum. Since then, Huston's sister has regularly appeared alongside him in films and, in *Ivans xtc*, Anjelica's now late husband, the sculptor Robert Graham, played his father. There is no doubt that Huston grew up with enormous privileges, but the cross-Huston pollination in films reads to me more like genuine familial closeness than simple nepotism.

"Yes, I am very close to my sister, and my father had real generosity and bravado, and he was very generous with me," he says.

Was he reminded of his father when he worked with Brian Cox while they were making *Succession* together? Certainly Cox has bravado to spare.

"Yeah, he does, he does. I have a crush on Brian - I absolutely adore the man. The two of us would talk about old films on the set and he has this wonderful glee about him, this force of nature, and my father was all of those things."

Never mind his father's achievements, if I were Huston, I would envy the times in which he lived, when Hollywood figures really were forces of nature, not PR-controlled automatons, and when a man could romance socialites and it wouldn't live on the internet for ever. I expected Huston to be annoyed by all the interest in his family, given that he, unlike so many other Hollywood progeny, has genuinely made a successful career for himself. But he seems to have more fascination with them than anyone. When we talk about what he's doing next, he says he's developing an adaptation of something by Hemingway, who was close friends with his father. In fact, his father had tried to adapt Hemingway's novel *Across the River and Into the Trees*, and now that an adaptation is finally in production, Huston himself will appear in it.

"I remember my father writing the screenplay, so it just made cosmic sense to be in it," he says. And this time when he smiles again he looks less like a wolf and more like a son who simply loved his father. *The Last Photograph* is released digitally on 26 April.



Accidental career ... as a drunk agent in *Ivans xtc*; right, the baddie in *Wonder Woman*





Lazy humour ...
Jamie Foxx

Review Dad Stop Embarrassing Me!, Netflix

Jamie Foxx embarrasses himself – but in all the wrong ways

★★★★☆

Ellen E Jones



Jamie Foxx does it all. He's an Oscar-winning movie star and a Grammy-winning recording artist with a standup comedy background. At 53, he still maintains the physique of his days as a record-breaking high-school football star. He has, by all accounts, a solid relationship with his two daughters (and their mothers), which doesn't seem to conflict with his status as one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors. In 2016, he even saved a stranger's life by rescuing him from a burning truck after a traffic accident. Playing the sitcom dad in Netflix's new series, though? This might be the one thing he is properly rubbish at.

Tributes to the late Paul Ritter have provided a recent reminder of the sitcom dad *par excellence*. On Twitter, King Gary's Simon Day summarised the genius of Ritter's Friday Night Dinner performance as "just the right amount of odd and angry you need in that closed environment and always part-dressed, which is integral to being a father in the home". Dad Stop Embarrassing Me!, a show co-executive-produced by Foxx and his eldest daughter Corinne, hits none of these vital notes. While it's an oft-observed phenomenon that even the coolest cats can inflict toe-curling cringe on their own offspring, the ultimate embarrassment here is a slapdash approach to sitcom.

In fairness, Friday Night Dinner probably wasn't foremost in the mind of showrunner Bentley Kyle Evans when called upon to create this vehicle for Foxx's return to sitcom, 20 years after their

collaboration on the little-mourned Jamie Foxx Show. Rather, the influence of The Cosby Show, The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Black-ish and Moesha is plain. Foxx plays Brian Dixon, the CEO of a successful cosmetics company who begins playing a more active role in the life of his 15-year-old daughter Sasha (Kyla-Drew), when she moves from Chicago to his spacious Atlanta home after the death of her mother. Also in residence are Brian's glamorous sister Chelsea (Porscha Coleman) and his ex-con father, "Pops" (Foxx's erstwhile Living Color co-star David Alan Grier).

"Deadbeat dad on a steep parental learning curve" could be a fruitful set-up for heart-warming comedy, especially if – as hinted in the show's pre-release publicity – it derived some emotional truth from Foxx's own family dynamic. Corinne Foxx supposedly lent her teenage diaries to the writing team for inspiration, yet the show still reaches for the same old after-school special plotlines that family sitcoms have been wheeling out since time immemorial: Brian overreacts when Sasha gets a boyfriend; Aunt Chelsea offers advice on dealing with bullies; Pops finds he has more in common with the Latino handyman Manny (Valente Rodriguez) than previously assumed, and every conflict is resolved with a heart-to-heart on the back porch.

The rest is a mix of racial comedy – the kind that's a staple of American humour, but often sounds lazily regressive to British ears – and oddly glib nods to hot-button issues. Brian's best friend, for instance, is a buffoonish white cop who hangs around at Brian's while on duty, but the topic of police racism only comes up belatedly and ineptly. A running joke about too-tight trousers might be a sly reference to Bill Cosby's infamous "pants down around the crack" dig at young Black Americans, but if so, it is pretty oblique. Besides, let's face it, Foxx isn't all that embarrassing: he can't help but pull off the most flamboyant outfits, and even his "dad-dancing" has unerring rhythm.

Something that Sasha should find embarrassing, but apparently doesn't, is the ceaseless celebrity name-dropping. I counted shoehorned mentions of Kanye West, Barack Obama, Dave Chappelle and Snoop Dogg in the first few episodes, and never with any satirical justification. How could Foxx risk an insult, when these are among his best showbiz buds?

When Eddie Murphy hosted Saturday Night Live in December 2019, he looked directly into the camera and, in reference to Bill Cosby's imprisonment and their long-running feud, asked: "Who is America's dad now?" It got a big laugh, but his recent film Coming 2 America has proved the spot is still open. Foxx won't be filling it either, although Dad Stop Embarrassing Me! does offer one valuable piece of parental inspiration. He is the kind of dad who's willing to invest his energies into an obviously sub-par series, if it might give his daughter a leg-up in the industry. Just give the guy Father of the Year, already. He's earned it.

Frank of Ireland 10pm, Channel 4



Brothers Brian and Domhnall Gleeson co-write and star in this offbeat comedy about best friends Frank (Brian) and Doofus (Domhnall) navigating single life in Dublin. In this opening episode, musician Frank discovers his ex-girlfriend Áine (Sarah Greene) has a new man – who happens to be an expert in mixed martial arts – and in an effort to impress her, decides to try his luck fighting in the cage. He then gets a gig singing at her grandmother's wake, despite having not written a new song or performed in years.

Ammar Kalia

Dragons' Den 8pm, BBC One

Once a fierce, if campy, arena of competitive business bargaining, Dragons' Den is now – like The Apprentice – far too dominated by the clichés and foibles of its format to feel fresh. Even so, it still excels in "wait, what?" moments – not least with this week's bounty of extreme equity negotiations.

Hannah J Davies

This Is My House 9pm, BBC One

Stacey Dooley's mystery house-sitting show has proved to be something of a hit with lockdown audiences, bringing in the laughs with its absurd mix of pretenders vying to convince celebrity judges that they own the house they are filming in. Spencer Matthews and Vogue Williams join the panel this week. **AK**

Pandemic 2020 9pm, BBC Two

The final episode of this fascinating series, which uses first-person testimonies to examine the global impact of the first year of the

coronavirus pandemic, ends with a look at the lasting legacies of Covid. Takuma, a member of an Amazonian indigenous community, prepares for the virus to reach his village. **AK**

The Queen And Her Cousins with Alexander Armstrong 9pm, ITV

The Queen's birthday bonanza continues with another cap-doffing documentary to celebrate her 95th. Her cousins, including Princess Olga Romanoff and Lord Ivar Mountbatten, reveal what the monarch is like as they go about their everyday lives.

Hannah Verdier

Meet the Richardsons 10pm, Dave

More meta fun as real-life standup couple Jon Richardson and Lucy Beaumont erect quote marks around themselves, with aid from their celebrity friends such as Sally Phillips, who tonight helps Jon make his dream project, a Jake Thackray doc. Meanwhile, Lucy seeks her mother's advice.

Ali Catterall



And
another
thing

Does everyone else correctly guess the homeowner on This Is My House (BBC One) within the first 15 seconds, too? Or am I a house-reading expert?

BBC One

6.0 **Breakfast** (T) **9.15** Morning Live (T) **10.0** Homes Under the Hammer (T) **11.0** Claimed and Shamed (T) (R) **11.45** Paramedics on Scene (T) **12.15** Bargain Hunt (T) (R) **1.0** News and Weather (T) **1.30** Regional News (T) **1.45** Impossible (T) **2.30** Garden Rescue (T) (R) **3.0** Escape to the Country (T) (R) **3.45** Ready Steady Cook (T) (R) **4.30** The Repair Shop (T) **5.15** Pointless (T) **6.0** News and Weather (T) **6.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **7.0** The One Show (T) **7.35** EastEnders (T)

8.0 **Dragons' Den** (T) Products being pitched to the entrepreneurs include a nifty construction bracket. **9.0** **This Is My House** (T) Spencer Matthews and Vogue Williams join the panellists as they try to identify the real Mitch from a lineup of four, all claiming to own a house in Leicestershire.

10.0 **News** (T) **10.30** **Regional News** (T) Weather **10.45** **Question Time** (T) Fiona Bruce chairs the debate. **11.45** **Greta Thunberg: A Year to Change the World** (T) (R) (1/3) Documentary following the young activist over the course of 2019 and 2020. **12.45** **Weather for the Week Ahead** (T) **12.50** **News** (T)

BBC Two

6.30 **Impossible** (T) (R) **7.15** Escape to the Country (T) (R) **8.0** Sign Zone: Chris Packham's Animal Einsteins (T) (R) **9.0** News at 9 (T) **10.0** News (T) **12.15** Politics Live (T) **1.0** Head Hunters (T) (R) **1.45** Getting the Builders In (T) (R) **2.30** 800 Words (T) (R) **3.15** Yellowstone: The Toughest Spring (T) (R) **4.15** Nature's Microworlds (T) (R) **4.45** Eggheads (T) (R) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** House of Games (T) (R) **6.30** Saved and Remade (T) **7.0** Remarkable Places to Eat (T) (R)

8.0 **Great British Menu** (T) The chefs compete over dishes inspired by science and go head to head over lamb. **9.0** **Pandemic 2020** (T) (3/3) As the pandemic continues, people are increasingly looking for someone to blame – and asking whether life can ever return to normal.

10.0 **Mock the Week** (T) (R) Dara Ó Briain hosts. **10.35** **Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands** Treshnish (T) (R) **10.45** **Newsnight** (T) Weather **11.30** **Bent Coppers: Crossing the Line of Duty** (T) (R) (1/3) **12.30** **Sign Zone** Football's Darkest Secret (T) (R) **1.50** MasterChef (T) (R) **2.20** This Is BBC Two (T)

ITV

6.0 **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.30** News (T) **1.55** Local News (T) **2.0** Judge Rinder (T) **3.0** Tenable (T) **3.59** Local News and Weather (T) **4.0** Tipping Point (T) **5.0** The Chase (T) **6.0** Local News (T) **6.30** News (T) **7.0** Emmerdale (T) Gabby tries to cover, Jamie berates Kim, and Victoria has an idea. **7.30** Tonight: Summer Holidays – What's the Truth? (T) Where, when and how people will be able to travel this summer.

8.0 **Emmerdale** (T) Charles talks to Vinny. **8.30** **Britain's Brightest Celebrity Family** (T) Eight celeb clans compete. **9.0** **The Queen and Her Cousins With Alexander Armstrong** (T) The Pointless host travels across the country to meet a selection of Elizabeth II's relations.

10.0 **News** (T) **10.30** **Local News** (T) **10.45** **The Late Debate** (T) Simon Harris talks to local MPs. **11.10** **The Jonathan Ross Show** With Oti Mabuse, Daisy May Cooper, Jimmy Carr and James Arthur. **12.10** **For the Love of Britain** (T) **12.35** Ideal World **3.15** Tonight (R) **3.40** Nightscreen

Channel 4

6.0 **Countdown** (T) (R) **6.40** Cheers (T) (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) **8.55** Frasier (T) (R) **9.25** Frasier (T) (R) **9.55** Frasier (T) (R) **10.25** Escape to the Chateau: DIY (T) (R) **11.25** News Summary (T) **11.30** Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **12.30** Steph's Packed Lunch (T) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** A Place in the Sun (T) (R) **4.0** A New Life in the Sun (T) (R) **5.0** Four in a Bed (T) **5.30** Simpsons (T) (R) **6.0** Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T)

8.0 **The Dog House** (T) Dave the three-legged labrador seeks a new best friend. **9.0** **Taskmaster** (T) Lee Mack raises serious questions about the use of clingfilm, Charlotte Ritchie anoints an insect, and Jamali Maddix nearly chokes on a many-sided dessert.

10.0 **Frank of Ireland** (T) (1/6) New comedy co-written by and starring Brian and Domhnall Gleeson. **10.30** **Naked Attraction** (T) (R) **11.30** **Trip Hazard: My Great British Adventure** (T) (R) **12.05** **Nightmares USA** (R) **12.55** The Simpsons **1.20** Couples CDWM **2.15** Kirstie: Keep Crafting and Carry On

Channel 5

6.0 **Milkshake!** **9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **11.15** Build a New Life in the Country (T) (R) **12.15** News (T) **12.20** Our B&B Dream (T) (R) **1.15** Home and Away (T) **1.45** Neighbours (T) **2.15** **FILM** My Husband's Evil Twin (Ben Meyerson, 2019) (T) **4.0** Rich House, Poor House (T) (R) **5.0** News (T) **5.30** Neighbours (T) (R) **6.0** Home and Away (T) (R) **6.30** News (T) **7.0** The Highland Vet (T) A crofter brings in a lamb that has a possible broken leg, while Shondie turns dentist on a West Highland terrier.

8.0 **Escape to the Farm With Kate Humble** (T) New series charting life at the presenter's farm in Monmouthshire. **9.0** **10 Years Younger in 10 Days** (T) Cherry Healey and the team come to the assistance of pub- and party-loving Nick and security guard Michelle.

10.0 **Celebrities: What's Happened to Your Face?** (T) (1/2) **11.05** **It's Your Fault I'm Fat** (R) (1/12) A 19-year-old starts a six-week diet plan. **12.05** **Here Come the Gypsies!** (T) (R) (1/6) **1.0** Live Casino **3.10** Friends (T) (R) **4.0** Cruising With Jane McDonald (T) (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS (T) (R)

BBC Four

7.0 **Glacier Mountain Goats** (T) (R) The challenges facing goats in Glacier National Park. **7.10** Walk the Line (T) (R) Barra Best explores Co Tyrone's lost railway routes. Last in the series. **7.40** The Joy of Painting (T) Bob Ross captures a glorious seascape.

8.10 **All Creatures Great and Small** (T) (R) A farmer's livestock fall victim to a seemingly incurable disease. **9.0** **FILM** **Topkapi** (Jules Dassin, 1964) (T) (R) Comedy caper. A conman is caught between the cops and the criminal masterminds planning to steal a jewel-encrusted dagger. Peter Ustinov stars.

10.55 **Peter Ustinov: The Parkinson Interviews** (T) (R) Highlights of the actor's chatshow appearances. **11.55** **The Sky at Night** (T) (R) **12.25** **Around the World in 80 Treasures** (T) (R) **1.25** The Joy of Painting (T) (R) **1.55** Walk the Line (T) (R) **2.25** How to Make: The Toothbrush (T) (R)

Other channels

Dave
6.0am Teleshopping
7.15 Detroit Steel **8.0** American Pickers **9.0** Storage Hunters Double Bill **10.0** American Pickers Double Bill **12.0** Red Bull Soapbox Race **1.0** Top Gear Double Bill **3.0** Rick Stein's Long Weekends **4.0** Top Gear Double Bill **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Would I Lie to You? **7.40** Room 101 Double Bill **9.0** QI XL **10.0** Meet the Richardsons **10.40** Hypothetical **11.20** Mock the Week **12.0** Would I Lie to You? **12.40** Room 101 Double Bill **2.0** QI XL **2.45** Drug Wars **3.25** Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience **4.0** Teleshopping

E4
6.0am Hollyoaks Double Bill **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **8.0** Black-ish Double Bill **9.0** Baby Daddy Double Bill **10.0** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **11.0** The Goldbergs Double Bill **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine Double Bill **1.0** The Big Bang Theory Triple Bill **2.30** The Goldbergs Double Bill **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine Double Bill **4.30** Married at First Sight Australia **6.0** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **7.0**

Hollyoaks **7.30** Below Deck Mediterranean **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.0** Supernanny USA **10.0** 24 Hour Baby Hospital **11.0** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **12.0** Gogglebox **1.0** Rick and Morty **1.30** Robot Chicken **1.50** Mr Pickles: Momma Named Me Sheriff **2.0** Taskmaster **2.55** Supernanny USA **3.40** The Big Bang Theory **4.05** Black-ish Double Bill **4.55** Baby Daddy Double Bill

Film4
11.0am **FILM** Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960) **12.40** **FILM** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **2.30** **FILM** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **4.45** **FILM** Leap Year (2010) **6.45** **FILM** Pitch Perfect 2 (2015) **9.0** **FILM** Animals (2019) **11.15** **FILM** Nerve (2016) **1.05** **FILM** Elle (2016)

ITV2
7.0am Ellen DeGeneres **8.0** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street Double Bill **9.30** Supermarket Sweep **10.30** Love Bites **11.30** Dress to Impress **12.30** Emmerdale **1.0** Coronation Street Double Bill **2.0** Ellen DeGeneres **2.55** Love Bites **3.55** The Masked Singer US **4.50** Take Me Out **6.0**

Catchphrase Celebrity Special **7.0** You've Been Framed! Gold Double Bill **8.0** You've Been Framed! Gold: Family Special **9.0** Family Guy Double Bill **10.0** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! Double Bill **12.20** The Stand Up Sketch Show Double Bill **1.20** Don't Hate the Playaz **2.0** Iain Stirling's CelebAbility **2.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.15** FYI Extra **3.30** Teleshopping

More4
8.55am Kirstie's Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It Double Bill **12.05** Heir Hunters **1.05** Building the Dream **2.15** Four in a Bed. Five episodes. **4.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **5.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo **6.55** Escape to the Chateau: DIY **7.55** Grand Designs **9.0** The Good Fight **10.0** The Tudors **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.10** New Amsterdam **2.05** The Good Fight **3.10** Food Unwrapped

Sky One
6.0am Monkey Life Double Bill **7.0** Futurama Double Bill **8.0** Stargate SG-1 **9.0** Road Wars

10.0 Caught on Dashcam **11.0** NCIS: LA Double Bill **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 Double Bill **3.0** MacGyver **4.0** Modern Family Double Bill **5.0** The Simpsons **5.30** Futurama Double Bill **6.30** The Simpsons Triple Bill **8.0** An Idiot Abroad **9.0** A League of Their Own: Loch Ness to London **10.0** Dating No Filter **10.30** The Flight Attendant **11.30** Road Wars **12.30** The Force: Essex **1.30** Caught on Dashcam **2.30** Road Wars **3.0** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK **4.0** Stargate SG-1 **5.0** MacGyver

Sky Arts
6.0am André Rieu: Wonderful World **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **10.0** Discovering: Claudette Colbert **11.0** South Bank Show Originals **11.30** Auction **12.0** The Curious World of Hieronymus Bosch **1.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **2.0** Discovering: Rock Hudson **3.0** The Eighties **4.0** Marvin Gaye: Music Icons **4.30** Video Killed the Radio Star **5.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **6.0** Discovering: Groucho Marx/McKellen **8.0** The Directors **9.0** Hollywood Couples **10.0** Goldie: The Art

That Made Me **11.40** Cheltenham Literature Festival 2020 **12.40** The Directors **1.40** The Great Songwriters **2.40** Radiohead: Austin City Limits **4.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **5.0** The South Bank Show Originals **5.30** Auction

Sky Atlantic
6.0am Urban Secrets Double Bill **8.0** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **9.0** The Wire Double Bill **11.15** Dexter **12.25** Dexter **1.30** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Double Bill **3.30** The Affair Triple Bill **6.45** The Sopranos Double Bill **9.0** Your Honor **10.10** Hausen Double Bill **12.30** Oz **1.40** Ray Donovan Double Bill **4.0** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **5.0** Urban Secrets



Radio

Radio 3
6.30am Breakfast. With Petroc Trelawney. **9.0** Essential Classics. Georgia Mann presents. **12.0** Composer of the Week: Haydn (4/5) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert: Gstaad Menuhin Festival. Bach: Prelude & Fugue in E, BWV 878 (Well-Tempered Klavier, Book II). Beethoven: Sonata in E, Op 109; Sonata in A flat, Op 110. Schubert: Allegretto in C minor, D 915. Andrés Schiff (piano). (3/4) **2.0** Thursday Opera Matinee: Carl Maria von Weber – Der Freischütz. Solo voices, Insula Orchestra and Accentus, Laurence Equilbey. 4pm Three more pieces by Buxtehude with the Orfeo Orchestra and Purcell Choir under György Vashegyi. **5.0** In Tune **7.0** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. Rossini: Overture – La Scala di Setta. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 4 (Boris Giltburg, piano). Vaughan Williams: The Lark Ascending. Ravel: Tzigane (Tasmin Little, violin). Bartók: Divertimento. Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Joshua Weilerstein. **10.0** Free Thinking. Matthew Sweet and guests discuss Peter Watkins's influential 1964 film Culloden. (R) **10.45** The Essay: Folk at Home – Julie Fowlis (4/5) **11.0** The Night Tracks Mix **11.30** Unclassified. Kele Okereke shares a piece of transportive music. **12.30** Through the Night

Radio 4
6.0am Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday in Parliament **9.0** In Our Time **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: The Adventures of Miss Barbara Pym, by Paula Byrne. (4/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour. 10.45 Drama: Marcovaldo, by Italo Calvino. (4/5) **11.0** Crossing Continents: Sexual Healing in the Israeli Military (3/7) **11.30** Peter Brook. An intimate and personal look at the director's life and work, in conversation with Glenda Jackson. **12.0** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** We Are All Birds of Uganda. By Hafsa Zayyan. (9/10) **12.18** You and Yours **1.0** The World at One **1.45** The Northern Bank Job (9/10) **2.0** The Archers **2.15** Drama: The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency – The Colours of All the Cattle, by Alexander McCall Smith. (R) (2/2)

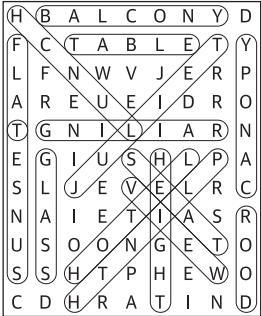
3.0 Open Country: Songs of England. With Sam Lee, Fay Hield and Abel Selaocoe. (3/5) **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal: The Leprosy Mission (England and Wales) (R) **3.30** Open Book (R) **4.0** The Film Programme **4.30** Inside Science **5.0** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **6.0** News **6.30** Meet David Sedaris (5/6) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth (4/15) **8.0** The Briefing Room (3/6) **8.30** The Untold: Shanty Fever (R) **9.0** Inside Science (R) **9.30** In Our Time **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime (R) **11.0** It's Not What You Know (R) (3/4) **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **1.50** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet of the Day (R)

Radio 4 Extra
6.0am A Case for Dr Morelle (5/13) **6.30** Five Red Herrings (8/8) **7.0** The Architects (1/4) **7.30** Meet David Sedaris (4/6) **8.0** Round the Horne (15/16) **8.30** Nineteen Ninety-Four (5/6) **9.0** The Write

Stuff (1) **9.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends (2/4) **10.0** The Right Chemistry **11.0** Desert Island Discs Revisited **11.45** Life Stories **12.0** Round the Horne (15/16) **12.30** Nineteen Ninety-Four (5/6) **1.0** A Case for... **1.30** Five Red... **2.0** Fresh Air Fiend (4/5) **2.15** Gudrun (4/5) **2.30** The Dalesman **3.0** The Right Chemistry **4.0** The Write Stuff (1) **4.30** Robin and Wendy Stories **10.0** David Sedaris **10.30** The World of Simon Kirk (4/4) **11.0** Lucy Montgomery's Variety Pack (3/4) **11.30** Children's Hour With Armstrong and Miller (1/4) **12.0** 625Y (2/2) **12.30** Great Lives (5/9) **1.0** A Case for... **1.30** Five Red Herring (8/8) **2.0** Fresh Air Fiend (4/5) **2.15** Gudrun (4/5) **2.30** The Dalesman **3.0** The Right Chemistry **4.0** The Write Stuff (1) **4.30** Robin and Wendy **5.0** The Architects (1/4) **5.30** David Sedaris

Yesterday's solutions

Wordsearch



Solution no 15,892



Sudoku no 5,196

7	2	6	8	5	1	3	4	9
9	4	1	7	6	3	5	8	2
3	5	8	9	2	4	7	1	6
8	3	7	1	9	2	6	5	4
4	1	9	6	3	5	2	7	8
2	6	5	4	7	8	9	3	1
5	8	3	2	1	9	4	6	7
6	9	4	5	8	7	1	2	3
1	7	2	3	4	6	8	9	5

Word wheel
BETTERING

Suguru

2	3	1	4	1	4
5	4	2	3	5	3
2	1	5	1	2	1
4	3	2	3	4	3
1	5	4	5	2	1
2	3	2	1	3	4

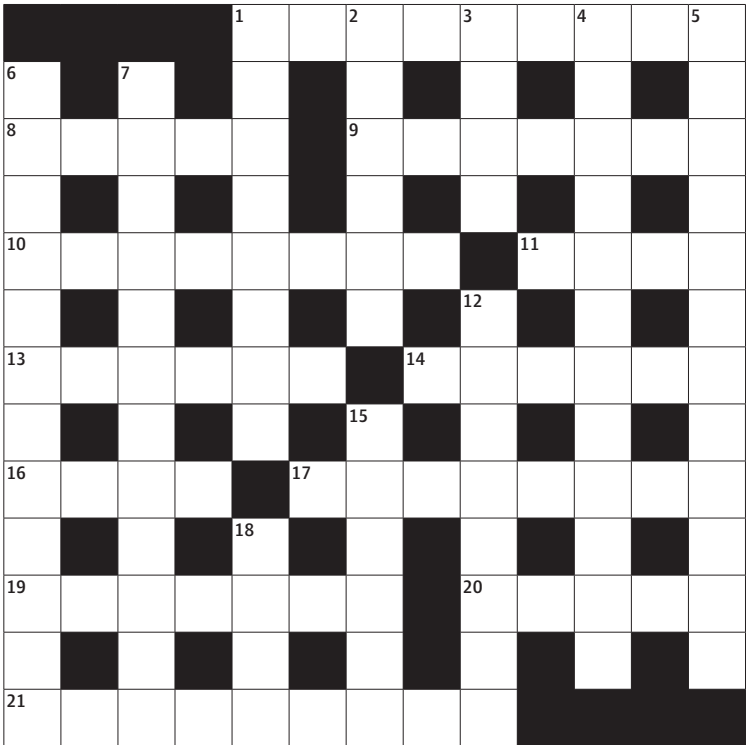
Quick crossword no 15,893

Across

- 1 Find out (9)
- 8 Approaches (5)
- 9 Tommy or GI Joe? (7)
- 10 Unguent (8)
- 11 The Beehive State (4)
- 13 Small rounded stone (6)
- 14 Metal, Cu (6)
- 16 Seldom seen (4)
- 17 Co-operate (4,4)
- 19 Cosmetic applied to the cheeks (7)
- 20 Mariner's milieu (5)
- 21 Shown (9)

Down

- 1 Put together (8)
- 2 Croupier's workplace (6)
- 3 Purpose - function (4)
- 4 Greek comedy playwright, d. c.385 BC (12)
- 5 Part of the London Underground (8,4)
- 6 Matchless (12)
- 7 Lincolnshire town - 18th-century painter (12)
- 12 Metonym for the Scottish parliament (8)
- 15 Red wine from Bordeaux (6)
- 18 European freshwater fish (4)



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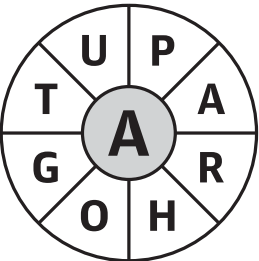
Sudoku no 5,197

Hard. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

			6		2
	5			4	
8		3		2	9
	2		7	6	4
3		1			
		9	2	3	
2	8			1	4
	9	3			
		4	8	7	

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-34. Good-29. Average-21.



Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

	2				
					2
			5		
	2				2

Wordsearch

Can you find 15 words relating to oil in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.



Steve Bell
If...



Pet corner

Which singer once had a dog named Lentil?
a. Moby
b. Morrissey
c. Sia
d. Lizzo
Answer top right

